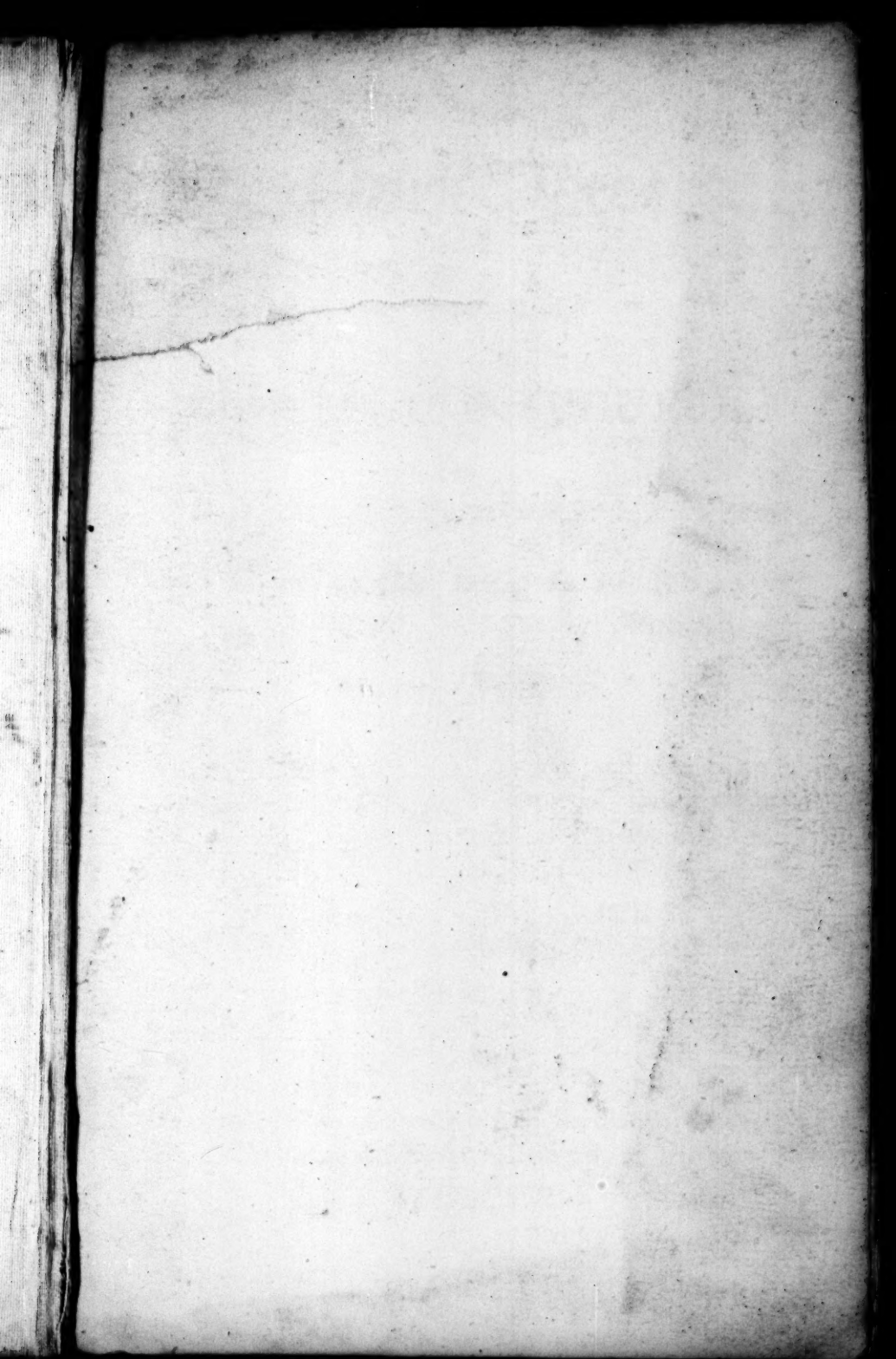


J. E. G. REBELLO DA FONTOURA

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THE

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Impostors Detected:

OR, THE

LIFE of a PORTUGUESE.

IN WHICH

The Artifices and Intrigues of ROMISH
PRIESTS are humorously displayed.

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Interspersed with several curious and entertaining
Anecdotes, relating to some of the principal
Personages of the Kingdom of PORTUGAL.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. BRISTOW, in St. Paul's Church-
Yard; and C. ETHERINGTON, at York.

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THE

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LIFE of a PORTUGUESE.

B O O K III.

C H A P. I.

A country mission ; several diverting incidents relating thereto. A description of the missionaries.

I ST A I D a few days longer at Donna Victoria's, when calling to mind our missionaries, whom the story of Henriquez and Constance had almost put out of my head, I set forward for Massilia. I was greatly afraid they would have been gone before I could arrive there ; but Don Castilmoro, who was the curate of that place, had given them a fifteen days sabbath to get their

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sermons

sermons by heart in, and that he might give his parishioners more time to prepare for the mission.

No one could be more cordially received than I was by the licentiate; but my presence was not quite so agreeable to the monks, who imagined I was come to do them an ill turn with their landlord. They were however much mistaken, and I was so far from intending any thing of the kind, that I should on the contrary have made use of all my interest, had there been a necessity for it, to procure them a good reception; but this was in no-wise the case, for Castilmoro was so prepossessed in their favour, that he looked upon them as angels come down from heaven, or at least as a set of new apostles whom God had sent to preach the gospel to his parishioners, who indeed stood in great need of it. He therefore, in my presence, made over all his power and authority ecclesiastical to them; only reserving to himself (out of a ridiculous and wretched affectation of humility) the honour of serving them at the altar and at his own table. So extraordinary a beginning made me promise myself no small diversion: nor was I deceived, for the good licentiate entered upon

upon his office that very evening, and waited on our angels while they were at supper, who acquitted themselves much better than Tobias's angel did at Raguel's. Our honest landlord had full employment, and though his arms were pretty strong, yet he found himself obliged to have recourse to his servants to assist him in placing and removing the dishes.

It seemed as if they had waited my arrival to enter upon the mission, which was opened the very next morning with ringing of bells, and the reading a mandate promising numberless indulgencies to all who should assist at it. This great privilege drew together not only all the peasants of our village, but of the other villages for between twenty and thirty miles round : they flocked from all parts in such numbers, that we should speedily have had a famine in the place had not the butchers, bakers, and innkeepers of the neighbouring towns, come in to our assistance : these brought others with them ; and amongst the rest several merchants with their different goods and trinkets ; so that all together made one of the completest and most elegant country fairs I had ever beheld.

The reading of the mandate was followed by a solemn procession, in which was carried with great pomp an image of the Virgin as big as the life. It was of massy pewter, and cast by Castilmoro himself; who had for that purpose obliged his parishioners to bring in all their plates, dishes, and spoons, even their very shoe-buckles. This superb image was carried on the shoulders of twelve of the stoutest country fellows that could be picked out, drest like priests, and walking with all the state and gravity of so many bishops, to the noise of drums, trumpets, fifes, and other instruments. The procession made the circuit of the parish in great pomp; after which a Te Deum was sung, and the whole concluded with giving out the sermon and lecture for the afternoon.

The latter part of the day was as diverting to me as the first part had been serious. I got to the church betimes, and stationed myself in such a manner that nothing that passed could escape me: I was placed in the center between the pulpit and the stage; for so I think I may call it, considering the use the monks made of it, and that a scaffolding had been purposely raised for them. And now
our

our missionaries appeared: they set out with striking up a *Veni Creator*, to call down the inspiration of the holy spirit upon them; but they had much better have invoked the assistance of common sense, which they seemed greatly to want, as will presently appear.

Of four missionaries that made their appearance at first, three vanished for some time, so that one only was left on the stage; and he mounting the rostrum began to hold forth in a discourse against sin. He took occasion to touch upon Free Will, which he said was absolutely necessary to constitute sin. But as it is much easier to conceive than define this prerogative of the soul, he was strangely puzzled about it; and entangled himself in such a manner, that he must infallibly have given up the point had not his brethren come to his assistance.

I cannot say whether the scene that followed was an impromptu, or had been previously concerted between themselves; but never in my life did I behold any thing more truly comic, than the farce they exhibited on this occasion. In order I suppose to give us a clearer conception of what the preacher had been saying to us, one of the monks coming

upon the scaffold mounts a rope that was stretched from one end of the church to the other, and puts himself in balance on it: as soon as he was mounted, his two comrades entered, the one dressed like an angel, the other like a devil, and placed themselves on each side of him.

So odd and unaccountable a spectacle could not fail of drawing the eyes of all the congregation upon the performers; but what most caught the attention of the people was, the dexterity of the monk in keeping himself steady on the rope, notwithstanding the violent shakes and pulls that his comrades gave him, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other: the preacher all the while crying out, ‘Admire, admire, my children, the great virtue of the equilibrium! Behold here a true emblem of man’s free-will. In vain would all the powers of heaven and hell endeavour to incline it to either side; all their attempts would prove fruitless, so long as free-will, which is the true counterpoise of the soul, did not give the preference to one more than the other. This must be the state of man before he can be truly guilty of sin. If it happens that he is not in exact equilibrium, but
rather

' rather inclines to the side of evil, the
 ' sin he commits ought not to be im-
 ' puted to him; because God is obliged
 ' to make up by a portion of his grace
 ' what is wanting to man to be in the
 ' just mean, otherwise the evil he com-
 ' mits cannot be looked upon in the
 ' light of sin, because he is no longer to
 ' be accounted free. This you see here
 ' represented before your eyes in this
 ' good soul, who so strongly resists the
 ' efforts of the two spirits which are con-
 ' tinually solliciting it. You see it at pre-
 ' sent appears indifferent to them both;
 ' but should it give the preference to
 ' one, it will to the good spirit, as that
 ' to which it finds the most natural pro-
 ' pensity in itself.'

But it soon appeared that our preacher
 had not the gift of prophecy, for as he was
 uttering these words, the devil gave his
 comrade upon the rope such a violent
 shake, that in spite of the boasted coun-
 terpoise of free-will, he made his nose
 touch the ground, to the no small diver-
 sion of all present, who could not forbear
 laughing heartily at the accident. But
 this in no-wise cooled their devotion;
 on the contrary, the preacher laid
 hold of it to set before them the weak-

ness and infirmity of human nature, and the great necessity they were under of making intercession with God to support them in the hour of temptation: and no sooner was the sermon ended, than I saw them running in crouds to a little office that had been purposely erected at the lower end of the church, where sat one of the monks with a great book to enter the names of such as were desirous of having masses said for them: by this scheme the missionaries got a good round sum of money.

But however prophane and indecent this manner of preaching might appear to me, the good fathers found their account so well in it, that they resolved to continue it; and the next day presented us with a repetition of the same farce, which brought them in between seven and eight hundred ducats more. And now finding their collections come in so fast, they did not choose to suffer them to amount to any very considerable sum without coming to an account, lest, if they should make any one of their company their cashier, he might be induced to play them a slippery trick, and make off with the boory. The monks are in general very well acquainted-

acquainted with one another's principles: accordingly they took each of them a share a-piece, and presented the fifth to Castilmoro, to reimburse him the expence he had been at in entertaining them at his house.

This supply came in very good time to the licentiate; for, at our return to the parsonage-house, we found a considerable encrease of company, of which I imagine he would rather have been quit. These were Donna Cameria, that eternal talker whom I have mentioned before, with three other ladies, all very pretty, but with the air of most finished coquettes. The croud of people that had been drawn together by the mission had made lodgings very scarce, which had induced Donna Cameria to bring her company with her to the licentiate's, who was her intimate acquaintance.

He received them with all the civility and heartiness imaginable; but our reverend fathers of the mission far outdid him, for they carried their civilities even to a degree of gallantry; and I soon perceived that the eyes of these pretended saints were not blind to exterior charms. What a curious sight is an

amorous monk ! surely the most diverting that can be to a man of the world. I had had a little specimen of it before in Father Pancraccio ; but nothing in comparison of what I now saw. I could not forbear laughing at this comedy, and especially at the affectedness and reserve of the ladies, who did every thing in their power to draw their reverend innamoratos on, and make as complete fools of them as possible.

In the mean time, Castilmoro tho' he had made a shew of such hearty welcome to his guests, found himself not a little embarrassed by them, as not knowing where to find beds, having resigned all his to the missionaries. He imparted his perplexity to me : Indeed, said I, this is a great matter to be uneasy about ; have you not a barn ? that and a few whips of straw will do the business. The fathers are accustomed to lie hard, so it will appear nothing new to them. Ay, but, replied he, don't you think they will take it ill to be sent out of the house into a barn ? No, no, said I, leave that to me. If I may judge by their eyes, they would think nothing too much to oblige the ladies we have here. In short, it was agreed that the

the monks should lie in the barn, and Castilmoro commissioned me to acquaint them with it.

When we returned back to the company, we found our missionaries busied with the rest at cards till supper-time. Mightily well, said I to myself, the poor people's masses are likely to fly now. But I was deceived in my conjectures, for the game went greatly against the ladies all the evening, which put the monks into such good humour, that I laid hold of the opportunity to open my commission to them, which they immediately came into with the greatest readiness and complaisance.

The plentiful cheer, and the chit-chat of the women, kept us so long at supper, that it was near midnight before we parted. I took the charge of conducting the monks to their new apartments; where, having given them plenty of good clean straw, I left them to sleep as well as they could, and returned back to the house with an intention of retiring to bed.

C H A P. II.

A company of players arrive at Massilia. What happened to the missionaries in the barn. A picture of the Licentiate Castilmoro.

I WAS just entering the house when I heard the noise of dancing at some little distance; it was a company of strollers and musicians come from Lamego, who hearing that there was a great fair in our town, had stopt by the way in order to give us a small specimen of their art. Seeing some of the actresses very pretty, I entered into the dance with them, and then taking aside the person who appeared to be master of the company, I inquired whether they proposed to make any stay at Massilia. He answered me, that they should stay no longer than there was a little money to be got. If so, said I, it may be perhaps worth your while to stop a little, for we have one company of players already in the town, of a different kind from yours, who have found means to squeeze our purses pretty

pretty well; for my part, I will certainly come and see you play. But where do you lodge? As it was very late before we got in here, replied the stage hero, we have not as yet had time to fix upon any place: besides we have been told that the town is so full, that it will be almost impossible to get any lodgings; therefore I should be extremely obliged to you, Signor, if you could tell me of any place where I might carry my company to upon occasion.

The oddness of the encounter, together with this last speech, put a thought into my head, which though, strictly speaking, not very charitable, yet appeared to me a very proper method of punishing our monks for the airs of gallantry, and freedom they had taken with our ladies. I thereupon answered the master of the company, that all that was in my power to do for him was to make him the offer of a barn that I had at my disposal. He very readily accepted of it, and as his whole company were fatigued with their journey, he begged me to be so good to shew him the way to it. Upon which I immediately conducted them to the barn, the door of which was to be shut
only

only by means of a secret spring, which I shewed them; and then taking my leave of them pretended to retire. This I did the better to observe the reception these new lodgers would meet with from the missionaries.

I was a good deal surprised to find every thing quite quiet on their sides for a considerable time; as for the players they made noise enough; but the good fathers had drank so plentifully the whole evening, that it was no easy matter to waken them. However, the players having done talking, and beginning to grow sleepy, threw themselves down in the straw; and now the scene I had promised myself began in the following manner:

One of the actresses going to lie down, unluckily threw herself upon a missionary, who being awakened by her falling on him, put out his hand to feel what it was. The girl, affrighted to find herself so suddenly seized by a man, gave a great scream, which wakened the other three monks, and at the same time put all the players in alarm, who immediately ran to the girl to know what was the matter with her. As they were forced to grope out their way,

way, it happened that one of them laid hold of the beard of one of the missionaries, who in his fright was endeavouring to get out at the door. The player taking him for one of his comrades, What the devil are you mad, says he, to dress yourself up in this manner, are you going to play the part of Chalcas? pray thee go to sleep and let the wench alone. By Momus, cries the second, who had got hold of another of the missionaries, I think we are to be in masquerade all night: come, come, Ragotin, pull off thy domine, we have had dancing enough. By my faith, said a third, I think this is the place where all the witches of the town keep their sabbath, for I have hold of one here that is turned into a goat, but the devil fetch me if I let him escape till——Hold, gentlemen, cried the master of the company, interrupting them, these are perhaps the rascally country-strollers that the gentleman was just now telling us of, who have picked up all the money that we thought to have got here. Please heaven we will pay them well for it: I warrant me they shall not be in a condition to play for this one fortnight at least.

While

While the manager was thus haranguing his company, the monks were doing all in their power to get out of the hands of the players. It happened that in the scuffle one of them gave his adversary such a box on the ear, as made the barn ring again. This was as a signal to the fight. The player finding himself struck, gave a great cry, and calling to his comrades, gentlemen, said he, these are certainly the scoundrels his theatrical majesty has been speaking of. At these words he threw himself upon the monk and beat him almost to a mummy, calling out all the while to his companions to treat the others in the same manner.

And now the barn echoed with the most dismal yells and screams, especially from the women, whom you would have sworn were going to be murdered: so that I began to be afraid lest my comedy should have a tragical catastrophe. In this apprehension I was just going to open the door, and part the combatants, when I saw the players all rush out in a body. By Æculapius, said one of them, if these rascals have taken the bread out of our mouths, they have paid pretty dear

dear for it: they'll not be in a condition to play again for one week I'll warrant them; so, friends, it will be best for us to lay hold of this opportunity, and as soon as it is day to go and take up our licences before the affair comes to be known.

These last words redoubled my apprehension. I made towards the door, intending to go in and offer my assistance to the monks; but then reflecting that if I shewed my face they would certainly take it to be a trick of my playing them, I contented myself with listening to hear if they gave any signs of life; when I was soon put out of my pain by the voice of one of the battered saints, who, in a faint voice, said to his comrades; by St. Francis, these devils have given me most hellish treatment; I am beaten to a jelly. Ah we richly deserve it, said another, was it only for making such a mock of religion as we did the other day with our equilibrium. It was certainly the devil himself whose shape you wore that came to revenge himself on us: I am only surpris'd that he did not twist all our necks, and carry us away to hell with him. I was mightily delighted at
the

the good father's credulity, and found that fear makes monks religious as well as other people. My mind was now at ease, as I was sure that excepting some few bruises extraordinary, every thing had succeeded to my wish; so I returned softly to the house, and going up to my chamber flung myself down on my bed.

But I was not suffered to remain long there; for the ladies who had not slept the whole night, for a reason that I will leave the reader to guess, were at my door by day-break to call me up. I was obliged in civility to obey the summons, and rise. Castilmoro seeing us stirring so early, thought it had been the effect of devotion; for which he greatly commended us, and ordered a good breakfast to be served in, to keep up our spirits, as he said, during the time we should stay at church.

We were hardly sat down to table when we were joined by the missionaries. Their pale countenances, swelled eyes, and the black and blue marks upon their faces, immediately struck the licentiate, who asked them in a great surprise, who had put them in that condition? The devils, said they,
have

have been tormenting us all night. Satan enraged to find that we were going to snatch from him the souls of the poor country people whom he had made sure of for his own, let loose a whole thousand of his imps upon us, who have used us in the manner you see.

Tho' no one was more at the bottom of the affair than myself, yet I affected the greatest surprise: See ladies, said I, with an air of astonishment, see what lengths the cursed fiend carries his diabolical malice to oppose the progress of these reverend fathers; and alas! it is a melancholy consideration that he should have so well succeeded; for, added I, addressing myself to the missionaries, it is impossible for you in your present condition to continue your apostolic labours; it would be giving too much scope to evil and licentious tongues, who will not scruple to say, that these marks of violence came from some other cause; therefore, for the honour of the church, and the ease of your own bodies, I think you had best abstain from your functions for some few days.

Tho'

Tho' Castilmoro was sensible that this would bring the whole weight of the mission upon his shoulders, yet he could not forbear acknowledging that I was in the the right; and it was accordingly concluded that they should not preach till they could appear abroad without scandal. However, as their zeal would not permit them to remain altogether idle, they resolved to employ their time in hearing confessions: they accordingly shut themselves up in their boxes, and so prevented all occasion of scandal.

The fathers had scarce left the house, when we saw the manager of the company enter with some of the principal performers. He was come to wait on the licentiate from the lord of the manor to ask his leave for himself and company to play in the town. Any other clergyman would have been greatly scandalized at a visit of this kind; but Castilmoro was not one of those rigid churchmen who are enemies to pleasure, and damn all theatrical diversions, and those that frequent them; he had been a great follower of them himself before he was presented to his living, and had imbibed such a taste for them, that he had sent
for

for a complete set of puppets purposely to divert his parishioners with on holy days. The players, who had been informed of this anecdote in the village, did not fail to compliment him upon his taste, promising to use their utmost endeavours to deserve his approbation, as well as that of the audience.

The most indifferent talents are always accompanied with some degree of self-love, this made Castilmoro take the compliment paid him by the players, as a panegyric upon his taste, which was at best but weak, and even ridiculous in a man of his profession ; he accordingly granted them full liberty to exhibit their shews : he even went farther, for, finding himself burthened with the whole weight of the mission, for that day at least, if not for several others, he thought it rather too much to bear, and bethought himself of a scheme truly worthy of the genius of the contrivers ; this was to inquire of the players whether among all their theatrical stock they had not some religious play. O ay, replied the manager, that we have, several ; there's *The Death of Arius*, a most edifying tragedy, comedy,

comedy, tho' somewhat clumsy in its catastrophe, then we have Balaam's Ass, or The Ignorant Preacher, a comedy frequently exhibited in our best cacerdis; and then again The Visionaries, or The Gaulish Inquisitors; and The Heretic per Force, with The Stigmata of St. Mary d'Agreda, a piece of five acts, with as many bloody catastrophes——

Now you mention stigmata, said I, interrupting him, pray have you not those of Catharine of Provence? you would oblige us greatly to give us this, as there is something new and very entertaining in the story. I know what you mean, said the buskin, it is a tragi-comedy that has made a great noise lately among the Gauls, chiefly on account of the extraordinary manner of its unravelling that which is without example. Don Chaduno, who worked up the story, was himself surprised at it; but this piece has never been translated into our tongue; however, we are promised a translation of it by the confessor of a great prince, till which time we must wait with patience. This will be a work of great edification to youth, especially as there will be so strict a regard paid to truth.

But

But have you nothing to give us in the mean time? said Castilmoro. Doubtless we have, answered the player. We have Harlequin turned Wag, The new Tarquin, The Lady Doctor, or Divinity in Petticoats, The Bankruptcy of Miracles, The — Hold, hold, said the licentiate, this last will do, as it is both excellent and new. Are you perfect in your parts? Why, it is not above a week, replied the manager, since the patriarch made us play it before him and his seminarists at his country-house. O then, said Castilmoro, it cannot choose but be excellent, therefore make yourselves ready for playing it this very evening; I will engage you shall have an handsome audience, and will besides take care to see you satisfied myself.

CHAP.

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C H A P.

C H A P. III.

Story of a young licentiate duped by the women. Shews given by Castilmoro. Unravelling of the tragi-comedy. A notable piece of roguery to which the author was witness.

THE players took their leave, highly pleased with Castilmoro, who on his side was no less delighted with them; and after they were gone left us to go and call over some of his old discourses. We made an end of our breakfast, and then I waited on the ladies to the fair; where, as the custom is, I was obliged to do that which cost me about two ducats; but it did not fare so well with a young licentiate whom we happened to meet with there.

This was one of those church-civet-cats that run after the women as they do after a benefice. He had rigged himself into a very handsome living by means of some base compliances, and the interest of one of the ladies in company, whom I heard afterwards he gratified with a pension of fifty ducats: as
 foot

soon as he spied her out, he darted thro' the croud to come at us ; but not without greatly discomposing the folds of his cassock, and disordering the whole œconomy of his curls, which put him in so violent a rage, that we thought he would every moment knock down some one or other of the country people.

The sight of the ladies somewhat calmed his fury, and his countenance was on a sudden changed into an air of the utmost sweetness and complacency : he made them a thousand compliments upon their looks, in hopes of meeting with a like return from them, in which they did not fail to gratify him. He then began to bite his lips, to make them red and pouting, and drew his mouth up into so many different forms while he was speaking, that he was perfectly ridiculous, as well as by the shrugging up of his shoulders, and the various contortions he threw his body into, in saluting every one that passed him : and being very desirous that we should suppose him to have a general acquaintance in the country, he was every moment turning about

to salute every one that appeared tolerably well dressed.

The women soon knew their man from this sample, and began to ask him what brought him to the fair. My good fortune, ladies, said he, who knew I should have the happiness of meeting you here, and a purchase I wanted to make of two fine horses to add to my chariot: I was just going to pay the money for them, but shall not stir now till I have done myself the pleasure of making you some little present—Here, Mr. Shopkeeper, continued he, turning to one of the tradesmen, shew these ladies some of your most fashionable goods, and never trouble your head about the price. The shopkeeper hearing this, immediately spread before us whatever he had of most curious and valuable. The ladies each of them pitched upon what she liked best, purely, as they said, not to disoblige signor licentiate. I could not help admiring the stupidity of the one, and the boldness of the others; but I have learnt since that this is a common custom with what we call well-bred women. They returned their reverend beau a great many thanks for his civility,

lity, and he got a few curtesies in return for all the expence he had been at.

We had not got twenty yards from him before the women began to laugh at him for his folly and stupidity. I could not help expressing my astonishment at such a proceeding. I think, said I, to one of them, the honest gentleman has no reason to be much pleased with this encounter; if I am not mistaken, you have lightened his purse pretty well for him. Oh, answered one of the ladies, he is sadly off truly; what, can he think to take his jaunts for nothing, or does he imagine that we are to stand to listen to all his nonsense and impertinence without being satisfied for our trouble: besides, it is the goods of the church, so we have nothing to reproach ourselves with; these gentry come too easily by their money for there to be any scruple in sharing it with them.

While we were thus entertaining ourselves at the charge of the poor licentiate, I saw a troop of sbirris* advancing hastily towards the place where we had left him, settling accounts with the merchant. This made me suspect

* *Sbirris* are under-officers of justice like our constables.

there had happened some dispute between them. To satisfy myself, I left my company, and soon found that my conjectures were but too true. I found them both so incensed that they were every moment ready to fall together by the ears. But the shopkeeper, like a prudent and knowing man, in order to make sure of his debtor, had sent for the guard, who came up at that instant, and began to inquire what was the matter. The matter, said the shopkeeper, is only to make me get my money of this sharper here, who has bought my goods, and wants to carry them off without paying me what they are worth. The licentiate acknowledged the debt, but then insisted upon having justice of that scoundrel of a tradesman, who, he said, had the impudence to ask him fifty ducats for a scarf, a toilet, a pair of ear-rings, a necklace, and a pair of bracelets. Why, is that so very much for a gentleman like you to pay? replied the officer; you would not have come off for as much again if you had had to deal with some bishops; besides being condemned to a few years banishment to learn you how

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to dispose of the poor's patrimony in this manner.

This wise remonstrance had no effect upon the licentiate, who still continued to refuse payment. But the officer having given orders to conduct him to prison, he at length found himself obliged to come down, and told out to the shopkeeper the fifty ducats, which he had laid by to purchase his coach-horses, which he was now obliged to do without for some time.

I returned to the ladies as soon as I had seen an end of the affair, and found them in very good company. They had met with the lord of the manor, and several other persons of their acquaintance, whose company being more agreeable to them than that of Castilmoro and his missionaries, they readily agreed to a proposal he made them of not parting during their stay. But as there would have been great unpoliteness in leaving the licentiate so abruptly after his genteel reception of them, they agreed to return, and pass the remainder of the day at his house.

We continued at the fair till it was time to go to church, where we promised

mis'd ourselves some new scene of diversion from Castilmoro and his comedians. However, we met with nothing for that time but a tedious declamation which he made against a certain new saint lately started up, to whom he seem'd to have no great liking. He concluded his tiresome harangue with a benediction, and then dismissed us with a promise of presenting us with some wonderful things in the afternoon.

After such a promise you may think we did not fail of repairing to the church, which was filled very early; so that in all probability I should have been heartily tired of waiting, but for a sight which served to divert me a little, and in which I should certainly have taken still more pleasure, had not the reputation of our holy religion been too much concerned in it: this was no other than our missionaries shut up in their confessionals with their hands constantly stretched out, to give their benedictions to the poor ignorant country people, who came in crouds to cast themselves at their feet. These reverend zealots had been so taken up with this employment, that they

they had not had time to think of dining. A strange thing that! and what would appear incredible to any one who did not know that a monk's avarice will get the better of his gluttony. The money that was given by every one who came to confess, and which was thrown into a little box fastened to the side of the confessional for that purpose, had put all thoughts of eating out of their heads, nor did they suffer Castilmoro's sermon to put a moment's stop to this lucrative function.

The licentiate mounting the rostrum, began in a very elaborate and edifying discourse against the vice of calumny; in which he undertook the defence of a certain monk of his order, who had not been able to escape the censure of evil tongues, notwithstanding, as he told us, his whole fraternity were ready to witness to the holiness and purity of his life. He then proceeded to enumerate the many bad things that had been said of him; and to make us more sensible of the melancholy effects of this vice, he declared that it cost the brethren of his order an immense sum to repair his reputation, which had been thus cruelly wounded; and this

comes, says he, addressing himself to his hearers, of your abusive and licentious tongues; you imagine that a chance word, or an idle tale, be it true or false, can be attended with no consequences; full of this you are always ready to divert yourselves at the expence of a priest; and the world, which is naturally wicked, and has no affection for our cloth, listen greedily to all the ill you can say of it, and even take a pleasure in spreading such evil reports, till at length they reach the ears of the magistrate, who takes the affair in hand, and then forthwith the whole body must pay for your talking.

I was utterly at a loss what to make of this curious apostrophe of the licentiate's, but in the end I had it cleared up to me.

Castilmoro had no sooner dismissed us than we found ourselves accosted by three or four of the comedians, who pressed us mightily to enter their booth, assuring us that we should see something no less edifying than curious. We did not take long intreaty, but went in with them; and the country people having heard that the shew was
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to be given gratis, pushed in in such crouds that the place, tho' a prodigious large barn, was in an instant as full as it could hold.

The farce however did not begin till Castilmoro came, who was gone to take some little refreshment after his apostolic fatigues. As soon as he was entered and had taken his seat, the curtain drew up, and they began by giving us a true school-boy's piece, tho' they would have palmed it upon us for the masterpiece of a celebrated professor of the college of Jesuits.

It was nevertheless very well received by Castilmoro, who was lavish in his applause, in which he was seconded by the greatest part of his parishioners. As a further mark of his approbation he presented the performers with a purse of money, which they refused, as thinking themselves sufficiently paid by the permission he had granted them of diverting the public with their exhibitions. The musicians, not willing to be outdone in generosity, as soon as the piece was over gave us a grand concerto gratis. The musick was some of the roughest I ever heard; however, Castilmoro made a sufficient apology for that by in-

forming us, that it was composed for the Chinese by a monk of his order, who was one of the first who undertook the conversion of those infidels; and in order to insure himself success, had begun by exhibiting theatrical pieces among them, which he set to music himself.

When this piece was over, we had a masque and a chorus; the music of which was not quite so insupportable as the former. I shall say nothing of the words, as I was not able to hear any thing of them for the shouts and claps of the country people, who thought themselves transported into paradise. By what I could learn from what little reached me, the subject of the piece was the apotheosis of one Don John Gidra, whose virtues they were reciting; religion, eloquence, and chastity, made his panegyric, and they exhorted the people to join with them in joy for his canonisation. This little piece was closed by a ballet performed by women dancers, representing the virtues, who acquitted themselves extremely ill.

And now the scenery being intirely changed, we were presented with a tomb, from whence issued a kind of monster

monster representing luxury : this fury having invoked all the infernal powers to his assistance, we saw them come forth from different parts of the stage, and offer their services to him ; and, as it appeared, just in the nick of time ; for the very instant that the monster was giving them his orders, there arose from the same tomb a machine in the form of a cloud, surrounded with a glory, and rising up by degrees to the middle of the stage.

In this machine was a phantom, all black, supported and surrounded by little Cupids, whom the ignorant country people took for angels : Luxury no sooner perceived this machine than he advanced with his train to oppose the ascent of this demi-god to heaven. He reproached him to his face with the vices he had been guilty of, named the virgins he had seduced, enumerated the sacrileges he had committed, and concluded by commanding the furies to pull him from his throne, and hurl him headlong into hell.

His orders would have been immediately put in execution but for a troop of black spectres, who, suddenly issuing from under the stage, came to the assistance
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of their distressed brother : they formed themselves into a ballet-dance together, which ended in a battle between the spectres and the furies. The fight was obstinate, and I do not know how it would have ended, had not heaven interposed to separate them. On a sudden we saw a thunderbolt hurled from the top of the theatre ; but whether for want of address, or whether it was done thro' malice I cannot determine, the fusée that should have fallen on the fiends, unfortunately fell on the hero of the piece, and set his robe all in a blaze ; from whence the flames communicated themselves in an instant to the canvas that formed the clouds ; so that the poor wretch found himself quite surrounded with fire and smoke, and must certainly have been burnt alive, had not the fire luckily burnt asunder the ropes that held the machine, which fell down with him upon two of his companions, whom it almost killed ; and the demi-god himself broke some of his ribs in the fall. Castilmoro thinking him killed, ran instantly to him ; but the buskin, instead of calling upon God, damned and swore like an heathen, giving the whole order to the devil ; and the monk

was some restitution going forward. In this persuasion I shewed him into a room to which these holy mountebanks had given the name of the exchequer chamber, where we found them busied in dividing the spoils of the day. As soon as they perceived us, him whom the steward had named to me, came up to him, and taking him aside into a little closet just by, shut themselves in that they might confer together without interruption.

My curiosity had been too much awakened, and I knew the genius of the monks too well, to let a scene of this kind escape me. Accordingly I went as softly as possible into my own chamber, which was separated from the closet in which they were locked up only by a very thin partition, and that badly joined; so that I could see and hear almost every thing that passed. I soon found that matters were as I had suspected; the steward was no sooner got into the closet than he pulled out of his pockets four large bags full of gold, and putting them into the monk's hands, threw himself at his feet. The severity of the missionary was not proof against this dazzling metal, of which
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however he was only to be the trustee; for the steward begged him with many earnest intreaties to restore that sum to his master; but in such a manner that it might not be known to come from him. The monk promised faithfully to do what he requested of him; and after a short exhortation to be more faithful for the future, he dismissed his penitent much lighter in conscience and pocket than when he came to him.

Every thing hitherto went as it should do, but I had a strange suspicion that the priest's avarice would not let it stop here. Accordingly, he was no sooner left alone than he began to empty the bags, one by one, and examine their contents. The sight of so much gold, which he already longed to be in full possession of, threw him into a kind of ecstasy, and prevented him for some time from thinking that he might possibly be overheard. Ah! what a glorious stroke might here be struck! cried he in the first sally of his transports—two thousand five hundred and seventy-seven ducats! how nobly this sum would set up us poor devils of monks! It would be worth an hundred missions to us: and what should hinder us from making use
of

of what fortune has thus thrown in our way? as for Don Pompejo, to whom it is to be restored, he does not want it, since his affairs have gone on hitherto as well without it: besides, it is part of his superfluities, and as such ought to be given to the poor; therefore he cannot if he would receive it again, as it properly belongs to us, as the chief of the poor; this point is incontestably decided by Busembullum.

In consequence of this fine reasoning, the monk was about to carry the money into the exchequer chamber, and deposit it there for the good of the community, when stopping short—— Fair and softly, said he; what reason have I to share this with my comrades? What part can they claim in it? Am I not wholly indebted to my own industry for this lucky hit?— Doubtless I am; but then we entered into an agreement at our first association to share equally in the good or bad fortune that should befall us——May be so; but surely it would be great injustice that I should not have somewhat more than the rest——So, there's for my trouble; in saying which he locked up two of the bags, and went to seek out his
com-

companions to share the rest with them.

As soon as these venerable thieves had done dividing their booty, they joined the company who were diverting themselves at cards till supper-time. The ladies were not more fortunate this day, than they had been the preceding evening, when they played against the monks; which these latter seeing, it gave them a strong inclination to try their luck a second time. The ladies were at first against admitting them; but it was no sooner agreed to, and they had taken their seats, than the fortune of the day changed intirely, and the saints purses bled plentifully. After supper was over, they demanded their revenge, which was granted them; but luck still continued to run against them, and the more they lost, the more eager they were for play, till at length they were stript of all their own money, and that which the steward had lately intrusted them with, into the bargain.

C H A P. IV.

The perfidy of the monk Pancracio.

I WAS awakened in the morning by the noise of the bells, which I cursed a thousand times : however as I was not to be at the general communion that was to be given that day, I endeavoured to compose myself to rest again, in order to repair the fatigues of the foregoing night ; but finding it utterly impossible I got up and went down stairs, where I was agreeably surpris'd to find my uncle Don Antonio, who on his side was no less delighted to see me, having been in great anxiety on my account, occasioned by a new scene that had happened to Atouega, since my departure. As there is something very singular in this adventure, and that it seems to shew how far the treachery and villany of a monk will carry him, I fancy the reader will not be displeased at my giving him in an account of it.

Scarce had Constantia, D. Henriques, and myself, left the inn, when it was
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surrounded by a party of soldiers with
 signor Pancraccio at their head ; they
 laid hold on the landlord, and threatened
 to carry him instantly to prison, unless
 he forthwith delivered up to them two
 gentlemen and an hermit, who were
 then in his house. The landlord, with-
 out being in the least disconcerted, made
 answer, that they had one of them
 already in their power (pointing to the
 monk) and as for the others, he added,
 it was not in his power to deliver
 them up, because they had left his
 house some time before, and he did not
 know which road they had taken : the
 alcaide, thinking this was an excuse
 of the landlord, gave him in charge to
 two of his men, and having posted
 others at every door and avenue of the
 house, he took the rest with him to as-
 sist in making a strict search ; but af-
 ter having visited every hole and cor-
 ner, without being able to meet with
 what they looked for (at which they
 were not a little enraged, as Pancraccio,
 to encourage them, had assured them, that
 they would find a great quantity of mō-
 ney) they returned to where they had
 left the innkeeper, whom they endea-
 voured to intimidate, by telling him
 that

that they would accuse him in the name of the holy inquisition, for having given harbour to two ravishers who had carried off a nun.

Odso, why did not you tell me this at first, replied the innkeeper with great coolness, you would have saved yourselves a great deal of trouble and me too, for I could directly have found you what you are in search of: there, says he, pointing to Pancraccio, there's your man; and what is more, I must acquaint you that this worthy gentleman, who has accused others of the rape in question, is himself a monk in disguise; who I suppose despairing of enjoying the fruit of his crime, has a mind to ruin those who were the authors of his disappointment: the other two persons you are in search of, met here by mere accident, and did not come in till near two hours after one another; they dined together, and afterwards carried the nun off with them without my knowing what road they have taken; the only conjecture I can form about the matter from what I heard them say, is, that they are going to put her into the hands of a lady of honour and virtue,

tue, who will take care to see her restored to her parents.

The confusion that appeared in Pancraccio's countenance at these last words, gave the alcaide a suspicion, that he was himself the author of the crime he wanted to punish others for; and immediately ordered his guard to lay hold of him, which they did, and upon searching him, found a great quantity of gold in his pockets, which they applied to their own use; they even took from him his very pocket-book, in hopes of meeting with some bills of exchange; but they found only two letters, one from the pretended countess of Mascarenez, in which that honourable lady engaged to deliver him up the lovely nun with whom he was enamoured; and another from an apostate monk who had fled into the kingdom of Algarva, from whence he wrote to Pancraccio, that he had furnished apartments for him and the fair Constantia, his intended spouse.

Tho' these proofs were more than sufficient, yet the alcaide did not content himself with them; but out of the extreme desire he had to find the monk still more guilty, or rather to enrich himself more by his spoils, he immediately

diately ran with some of his guard to Pancraccio's chaise, behind which were his portmanteau and trunks, which they soon broke open, and found them full of bags of ducats, and a great quantity of church-plate, which the sacrilegious monster had stolen and broke into pieces for the more easy conveyance : the bags were presently emptied, and the contents shared, and the plate would have undergone the same treatment, had not the fear of committing sacrilege, which might subject them to the inquiry of the inquisition, stopt their hands : these therefore they set a-part as unanswerable proofs of the apostacy and villany of this monk, who was immediately handcuffed, and carried to the prison of Villaleda. The alcaide then set out with a party of his men to scour the country in search of us ; but without success.

Ambrose, who had been witness to this adventure, was so frightened at it, that he made it his first business to run back and acquaint Don Antonio with all the particulars. One may easily guess at the anxiety he was under for near a fortnight, that he was without hearing any thing from me : this silence made him apprehensive that I had fallen into
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the hands of the alcaide and his people, and it was partly to satisfy himself with this particular, that he had taken this journey to Massilia; and no words can paint the joy he expressed at finding how well I had extricated myself from that affair. Castilmoro was ready to shew the share he took in his satisfaction, by ordering a good breakfast to be set before him; and as he could not stay to keep him company himself, being obliged to celebrate high mass that forenoon, he contented himself with desiring me to take his place, and very heartily exhorted my uncle to recruit his spirits by a chearful glass.

Don Antonio was never very curious about sermons, and I on my part began to be heartily tired of them; so that we let them ring in at the missionaries without stirring from table, where we did the best in our power to lay in a stock of spirits for them. We could not however continue our employment so long as we would have done, for the servants being all of them gone to church on account of some extraordinary indulgencies that were to be granted that day, it happened that one of them had taken the key of the cellar
with

with him in his pocket, which obliged us to stop short at the sixth bottle, the whole stock that was left in the beaufet. This accident violently exasperated Don Antonio, who by this time was entered pretty far into business; he swore and laid about him like a madman, cursing the monks and their indulgencies, whom he said were not all together worth a single flaggon of wine.

In order to quiet him a little I proposed his going with me to the church, where we might perhaps meet with the fellow who had the care of the cellar. In a word, thirst made the good man do that which devotion could not; we rose from table, and set out for the church; we had not got ten yards from the house before we heard one of the fathers roaring against the great sinfulness of sin, as if he would tear his lungs to pieces. God a mercy gown, said Don Antonio, I think it rains nothing but sermons and preachers here! Faith, I had much rather it would rain wine. What the devil signifies all this noise and bustle? the people here will be never a whit the better for it. That may be, said I, but the good fathers purf's will; and this they are very sensible of by the little

experience they have already had. Upon which I related to him all the tricks and impositions of theirs which I had been witness to, not forgetting to mention how finely they had been flung by the four females the night before ; at which the honest licentiate laughed very heartily.

C H A P. V.

A merry adventure that befel one of the missionaries while he was preaching. A solemn procession.

AS Don Antonio had undertaken this journey to church on no other account than to get the key of the wine-cellar, he was for making the best of his way in immediately ; but the croud was so great that we could not even get within ten yards of the door. I never in my life saw a greater concourse of people ; they filled not only the church, but likewise a large square place that was before it. One of the monks who had got out of the church in order to make the people keep silence, that his brother within might be heard, was himself astonished at it. He found his apo-

apostolic zeal roused at the sight of such a numerous audience; and as it was impossible for them to hear any thing that was said by the preacher within, a thought took him in his head that he would give them a sermon himself. Accordingly he mounted a little cart that happened to be standing there, and which a countryman had left to the care of his son, while he had gone into church to pick up a few indulgencies in his way.

The monk pitched upon this as a proper theatre for displaying his eloquence on, and began to hold forth on the second commandment. After an exordium ex abrupto, he shewed how unpardonable those were who took God's holy name in vain, and began to repeat all the oaths and imprecations common in the mouths of carmen; of which he gave so exact a detail, that one would have been tempted to have taken him for one of those people himself: but the vehement zeal he shewed against such sort of crimes, had like to have cost him his life, for the horses that were in the cart, frightened at his violent cursing and swearing, and thinking they had five or six carmen at their heels, be-

gan to set out at full speed in the middle of the sermon, dragging the poor preacher along with them like another Hippolitus.

This accident so confounded all who were present, that not one of them thought of lending the poor devil the least assistance, tho' he roared out like one possessed: the noise he made only served to spirit up the horses more, who finding themselves without a driver, ran up and down in confusion without keeping in any one tract. The monk began now to be more afraid than ever, and clung with all his might to the sides of the cart; but the sight of a stone-buttress which stood right in the way, and over which the horses seemed just preparing to carry him, made him loose his hold; and the fear of being beat to pieces with the cart, determined him to throw himself out of it into a deep slough which was not two yards distant from the place, and which he thought himself very happy to meet with. Accordingly in he threw himself; but his fall was so heavy, that he sunk up to his chin in mud, which drew on him the shouts and hallowing of the people,

people, who had just before been admiring his eloquence.

Don Antonio was so highly delighted with this comical spectacle, that he forgot his thirst for some time : indeed, as it happened, he would not have had much time to have satisfied it in, for this scene was scarce over when it was succeeded by another, which tho' more serious in appearance, yet had a no less diverting ending. This was a solemn procession conducted with great order and decorum, which made me imagine that it had been concerted by the monks the night before among themselves. The retinue, which was a very numerous one, was divided into four classes ; the first composed of virgins, of which I never saw a greater number assembled together, and yet perhaps few villages had less of them, and the second of the married women ; the young men made up the third, and the penitents closed the rear. This last class was the least numerous of the four.

The troop of virgins was headed by one of the ladies who had the day before so finely plumed our missionaries : she carried the cross, and had for supporters her two companions, each of

them with a lighted taper in her hand. Tho' they had exerted all their art and colouring to shine forth on this occasion, I could not help remarking a certain air of weariness in them, and eyes that betrayed the want of sleep: this I was ready to attribute to the effects of devotion; but I understood soon after that they had sat up all the night before at a ball which Don Pompejo had given at his own house, and could not help making some reflections on so odd a contrast. Is it possible, said I to myself, that one can pass so easily from one extreme to another? Or rather, can it be imagined that two such opposite things as devotion and a taste for worldly pleasures can be united in the same person? certainly such notions are unknown to any but monks and women: the spirit of meanness and contradiction that is so prevalent in the one, and the love of gain that governs the others, is alone capable of producing such unaccountable effects.

They honoured me with a very low curtesy as they passed me, accompanied with a most bewitching smile. Donna Cameria headed the married women; and tho' she led only a
troop

troop of country dowdies, she marched with as much pride and state as a bishop in procession at the head of his clergy on a visitation day: she likewise honoured us with a curtesy, but not quite so low as the others had done: we returned the compliment in a proportionable manner, and staid to see the rest of the procession pass by. I had forgot to mention that the monks, in order to give a greater variety to the pageant, had mixed the different classes with each other, so that the young men followed immediately after the maids, and the penitents after the married women: these latter were followed by twelve stout fellows drawing a cross upwards of twenty-five cubits long, upon large casters. As it was extremely heavy they relieved each other by turns; every one was eager to lay hold of the rope, on which the missionaries had strung a great number of indulgencies and pardons: behind this long and heavy machine came the licentiate Castilmoro, marching with all the majesty of a prelate, with one hand resting upon this figurative instrument of our salvation.

Tho' there was nothing edifying in this spectacle, yet it happened by an ex-

traordinary chance to inspire Don Antonio with the spirit of devotion, who was one of those weak-minded men who are easily caught with mummeries of this kind. He now fell into the procession, which he accompanied in a very devout manner (I following him out of complaisance) to the church, where a high mass was celebrated on the occasion, at which, as I was informed by the sexton, upwards of 5793 persons communicated. The pious missionaries dismissed us after this curious ceremony was over, giving us at the same time an invitation to attend a conference which was to be held that evening; where, as they told us, we should be witnesses to such things as had never yet been heard or seen.

C H A P. VI.

The shortest in the book.

DON Antonio and I were now for making the best of our way back to the parsonage-house ; but found ourselves stopt at the church-door by a prodigious croud of people who were gathered round two pilgrims, whose noble deportment, and genteel address, soon gave me to understand, that they were not of the common class of religious mendicants, who make a living by wandering up and down the countries, and abusing the credulity of the poor ignorant people. Notwithstanding my haste to be at home, I could not pass by without stopping to ask them some questions, which they answered with an air of politeness and good breeding, seldom to be found amongst people of their appearance. If I found myself charmed with their conversation, I was still more so at the sight of the youngest, who seemed to me at most not above seventeen : his beauty, and what was more, his excessive modesty, made me suspect, that there might be

some mystery beneath this disguise, and that they were in fact very different people to what their dress bespoke them. The adventure of Pancraccio and Constance now came into my mind, and I fancied this might be something of the like nature: full of this idea, and curious to be satisfied concerning the truth of my surmizes; I intreated them very civilly to go along with us to the parsonage-house; where, I said, I hoped to be able to procure them such refreshment as they might stand in need of after their fatigues.

After some little ceremonies, they consented to accept of my offer; and being got clear of the croud, I conducted my new guests to Castilmoro's house, where we found him and my uncle Don Antonio (whose call of thirst had not permitted him to dance attendance upon my curiosity) ready to sit down to table with the holy fathers missionaries. The honest licentiate, who was no less struck than myself with the air of dignity that appeared in their countenances, received them with great politeness, and ordered a cover to be set for each: all the time we were at table I observed our monks eyeing

eyeing the young pilgrim with marks of the greatest admiration ; and they were on all occasions ready to say a thousand little obliging things to him ; but he, so far from making any answer to them, kept his eyes fixed in modest silence on the ground, and scarcely seemed to hear any thing they said : this behaviour only served to redouble their curiosity and surprise. What reason, said they one to another, can the old man have for treating this sweet young creature which so much severity ? It is downright murder to expose so tender a form to the rude fatigues of a pilgrimage : if he has been guilty of any crime, could he not have gone and done penance himself without exposing the life of this young innocent ? There is something shockingly cruel in such a proceeding. He may probably have his reasons for it, said another ; and I must own, I should be glad to know them : let us desire the favour of him to satisfy us in this particular. There is no difficulty in the thing ; these sort of people are never so well pleased as when they are relating their adventures.

Their reverences were not the only persons of the company who had a
curiosity

curiosity to be informed of the reason of their pilgrimage, Castilmoro and every one present were equally desirous of it; and the licentiate managed the conversation so as to make it fall insensibly upon the subject of our desires. The old pilgrim soon perceived his drift, and very politely said, I see Sir, you and the rest of this good company are impatient to know who we are, and what were our motives for undertaking this pilgrimage; this is a secret which I have hitherto kept carefully concealed; but the prudence which ought to make an inseparable part of the character of those of your profession, and the obligation we have to you for the generous reception we have met with here, not only incline but even force me to gratify your desire: I have only one favour to request of you before I begin the relation of my adventures; which is to promise me that you will keep them secret. We all readily promised never to mention them again to any person whatever: upon which he began his story in the manner as will be seen in the following chapter.

C H A P. VII.

The history of the count de Redundo and Donna Theresia.

YOU have doubtless, gentlemen, heard before to-day of the dismal effects of love, said the old pilgrim: the world is full of stories of this kind, and of the unhappy consequences arising from this fatal passion; but amongst the many instances that may have come to your knowledge, I question much whether any were equal to mine; as you will be able to judge by the relation I am now going to make you.

The count de Redundo, my father, after having placed me in the posts he occupied at court, retired to one of his estates in the country, where he ended he ended his days in that happy tranquillity which is unknown to those who are the followers of a court. I was then about the person of Don John, our sovereign of glorious memory, and was honoured with a considerable share of his confidence. You will easily suppose, that in such a situation the conquest of hearts was a matter of no great difficulty,

culty, especially in a court so famed for its gallantry, as was that of the prince I am speaking of: but amongst all the beauties to whom I had a right to make pretensions I found my heart engaged to one in particular above the rest: she was none of those coquettish ones of her sex that place all their attention in concealing their own defects, and studying the weak sides of the men whom they intend to make their slaves. Sweetness, modesty, and candor (rare qualities in a court) made the principal parts of her character; beautiful by nature without the assistance of art, and with the secret of pleasing every one without seeming to intend it, her charms were so much the more dangerous, as no one entertained a suspicion of them, and consequently could not be upon their guard: I myself experienced the truth of this on an occasion wherein she had not the least design upon my heart any more than I at that time had on her's. It was as follows:

Don John being put into the peaceable possession of the throne of Portugal, was willing to testify his acknowledgment to the principal noblemen and grandees of the court, who had

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so generously supported his cause; for this purpose he made a magnificent entertainment to which they were all invited. I shall not take up your time with a description of it, as the detail would carry me too far, and shall content myself with saying, that the greatest master-pieces of art and nature were united to make it as splendid as possible; amongst the great number of women of quality, who were not the least ornaments of this superb feast, was one named Donna Theresia de Mundao: this was the fair one whose picture I have already given you; and the remembrance of whom still draws tears from my eyes. As she was at that time one of the ladies of honour to the queen, she attended her royal mistress to the ball with which the entertainment was to open. The princess herself was not a little admired for her sprightliness and skill in dancing; but Donna Theresia, who danced next after her, was greatly superior on account of the bewitching grace with which she accompanied every step: the courtiers were to a man enchanted with her, and nothing but policy kept them from openly giving her the preference to the queen. Donna Theresia, who joined to
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the most exquisite beauty a modesty without example, was not in the least vain or proud upon the encomiums she heard lavished on her from every mouth; she received all the compliments made her, and returned them with politeness, but at the same time shewed an indifference to them, that was surprising in a person of her sex and beauty.

As the rank I then held about the king, put me every way upon a footing with her, I desired her to grant me the favour of her hand to dance with me; to which she consented. Fatally delightful complaisance! this was the source of all my misfortunes, as it has been of the greatest pleasures that man could taste in this world; but it pleased heaven to make me pass successively from the height of bliss to the deepest abyss of misery; it was my fate, and there was no avoiding it: chance brought our eyes to meet as we were dancing. Good heavens! what became of me at that instant! I received all the fire of her's full in my heart, which immediately burnt with a passion the most ardent that was ever yet experienced. I saw, I sought, I loved nothing else but the charming Theresia: the love she had inspired

inspired me with was too violent to remain long concealed, and I only waited for the breaking up of the ball to declare myself to her : but I could not do it without trembling ; so much was I afraid lest my declaration should offend her ; but love proved my friend, and I found something more than bare civility in the answer she made me.

This was a great deal for a person of Theresia's modesty and reserve. As I was perfectly well acquainted with her character, I concluded from her reply that she was not displeased with this avowal of my passion, and was from thence encouraged to devote myself to her service ; nor had I reason to complain of my success, for she burnt with an equal flame to mine ; and after six months tender assiduities I became the master of her heart and hand. At that happy period we tasted all the innocent delights of two fond hearts whom heaven seemed to have formed for each other : a lovely girl was the fruit of our chaste endearments, which were if possible increased by her birth ; but alas ! they were too exquisite to be lasting ; some demon, envious of our felicity, crossed them by
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the most fatal stroke that could possibly happen ; this was the death of my dearest Theresia, who was snatched from me a few years after the birth of this infant. Words are too weak to paint to you the agonies of affliction, or rather the despair I felt at this accident ; I certainly should never have survived it, was it true that one may die of grief ; for mine was in the utmost excess, and I should doubtless have sunk beneath it, had not providence reserved me for greater calamities.

After this loss every thing became hateful to me, and the court, that general round of noise and dissipation, instead of alleviating my grief served rather to increase it. Every step I took, every face I saw, reminded me of my Theresia. At length unable to make head any longer against my grief, I resolved to fly a place where every thing administered fresh fuel to my disorder, and to seek in the new world that tranquillity I had for ever lost in this. I would willingly have taken with me the precious fruit of our loves ; but her tender age, and a father's fondness would not suffer me to trust so rich a treasure to such a mercurial element.

element as the sea; I therefore delivered her in charge to one of her uncles, who promised me to take the same care of her as of his own daughter. After thus settling my affairs, pretending a sudden order from the king to go to the Brazils on some particular piece of service, I set out for Lisbon, where I took shipping.

It seemed as if heaven had inspired me with this thought to deliver me from the melancholy situation in which I was plunged; for no sooner had I set my foot in the ship, than I saw myself accosted by a number of my friends, who knowing of my misfortune came purposely to comfort me, and expressed great satisfaction in the thoughts of our being to sail together. The chief of these, were Simon de Vasco, the captain of the ship; Manuel de Faria, his son-in-law, who was second commander; Francisco de Correa, and several other officers; all of whom were my acquaintance, and honoured me with their affection: of this they were constantly giving me proofs during the short time we were together; for the same demon who had robbed me of my ever-loved Theresia, was determined

mined to bereave me also of these amiable friends, who were all that I had left in the world to comfort me for her loss; and to force me to lament theirs. Dear friends! as unfortunate as dear! accept these tears, the poor tribute for your tender cares: your generous and sympathetic friendship merited a better fate. Would you believe it, gentlemen, continued the old man, wiping away the tears which trickled in large drops down his venerable face, these generous youths, fearing lest I should relapse into my sorrow upon being left alone, carried the excess of their kindness so far as to keep me company for whole nights together, never leaving me but when they saw me overcome by sleep, and constantly returning as soon as they imagined I was awake again.

One evening, while they were thus keeping me company, a sailor came running into the cabin with a wild and distracted air, to acquaint us that the ship was on fire. - We instantly ran upon deck, but could perceive no reason for this alarming news; but Vasco having sent some of the sailors between decks, to make inquiry into the occasion

sion of the report, they brought us word that the fire which had at first caught amongst the coals, at the bottom of the ship, had communicated itself to the other combustible stores, and from thence to the sides of the ship, so that all the hold was in a blaze ; and what was much more dreadful, that it was got very near the powder-room.

This dreadful news threw the whole ship's company into the highest consternation. On any other occasion, every one would have sought his safety in flight : but what hopes of escaping were here ? we had but two boats, and our ship carried upwards of five hundred men : besides, the nearest land to us was above two hundred leagues distant. The horrors of death were now painted in every countenance ; only Vasco and his officers beheld it with an undaunted courage ; and in hopes to prevent it, if possible, ordered all the help that could be brought in such circumstances. While some of the sailors were busied in endeavouring to assuage the violence of the flames, others were ordered to hoist out the boats ; and as there were a great many passengers, the captain insisted upon their getting into them, and gave them

them one of the under-pilots to conduct them: but alas! this precaution was useless, for a number of the sailors and soldiers, judging of the danger by what they saw the captain about, jumped in such numbers into the boats as they lay along-side, that they presently sunk under them. At sight of this melancholy spectacle I returned thanks to heaven that I had resisted the intreaties of Don Vasco, who was very urgent with me to endeavour to save myself with the rest of the passengers; but gratitude would not permit me to leave either him or his officers in a time of such imminent danger: I made him a tender of my weak assistance, assuring him that if it proved of no use, I would at least have the consolation of dying with such generous friends, who never had abandoned me in the hour of my distress. Alas, I little thought that while I was speaking these words, I was so near parting with them for ever!

A noise a thousand times more horrid than the loudest thunder at once informed us and made us sensible of our misfortune. The fire, notwithstanding all the efforts of the seamen, had reached the powder-room, and in the twinkling

twinkling of an eye our ship was blown into a million of splinters, and I found myself carried half a mile up into the air in a sheet of smoke and fire; I thought I was hurried alive into hell, and did not perceive my mistake till I fell down into the sea: in my fall I sunk almost as deep down as I had before been carried to a height in the air; but heaven saw fit that I should keep my presence of mind in both these elements.

The first thing I thought of when I came above the water, was to return God thanks for having delivered me from the dreadful danger I had been in: my prayer was short and fervent, time and circumstances were too pressing to admit of a long one; for tho' I had escaped from the most dreadful of all elements, I had still another to encounter with. Happily the sea was very calm, and the night one of the finest that could be; without these two fortunate circumstances I must inevitably have perished: add to this that I got hold of a piece of the ship's mast which came floating by me, on which I seated myself as commodiously as I could, and delivered myself to the mercy of the waves, not knowing whither to direct

direct my course, or if I was not driving out into the main ocean instead of towards the land.

It is not always in the hour of danger that we feel all the horrors of it : on the contrary, the soul seems to be stupefied by the first impression, and perceives it as it were only in gross. The wise author of nature has doubtless permitted it to be so, lest the too lively sense of the instant danger should overwhelm us altogether : this was precisely my case on the present occasion. However strong an impression the dangers I had already escaped from made on me, it was nothing to compare with what I felt afterwards : I now saw myself the sport of the wind and waves, and began to open my eyes to the deplorable condition I was in. Alas ! cried I in the first transports of my grief, what will become of me ? I am the outcast of all nature, and have no hope left but in the mercy of God ! It is he, and he alone, that can deliver me from the perils which surround me ; but how am I confident he will extend his goodness so far ; am I more innocent in his eyes than the unhappy wretches I have just seen perish by the flames and water ?

Dear

Dear Vasco, dear Feria, unfortunate friends, and the only comforts I had left in this life, what had ye done to deserve so cruel a fate?

In these melancholy thoughts I passed the most part of the night, and should perhaps have continued in them much longer, had not the raft to which I clung been driven by a sudden gust of wind against a rock; the shock was so violent that it made me quit my hold, and I fell off into the sea; however, I soon came up again, and swam to the rock against which my raft had been broken into a thousand pieces. As it appeared to be of a great height, I endeavoured to gain the top of it in hopes of making some discovery. As the day began now to draw on apace, it was already light enough to distinguish objects; but what was my joy, when upon getting to the top of the rock, I perceived at some distance a number of trees, which the motion of the waves while I was upon the raft, made me take for floating pieces of timber! I found my strength redoubled at this comfortable prospect, and hastening down from the rock, I threw myself once more into the sea,

and swam for the opposite shore, which I reached in a short time. No sooner had I set my feet on land, than I found my spirits intirely exhausted by the violent efforts I had used in swimming : I was so overcome with the fatigues of the preceding night, that I gave myself up without reserve to the weariness that crept upon me, and flinging myself at the foot of a tree, fell fast asleep.

This, gentlemen, continued the count de Redundo, is the first period, as I may call it, of the ills brought on me by love : I think you too humane not to have been sensibly touched with the relation of my sufferings : the tears which I have observed to fall from the eyes of that amiable cavalier who did us the honour of his protection, convinces me that it has at least affected him. It would be cruelty to push it any farther, therefore give me leave to break in upon the story of my misfortunes, by relating to you some other adventures which befel me, the singularity of which cannot fail of giving you entertainment. Indeed they are so very strange, and carry with them so much of that wonderful, which we meet with in fabulous
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relations, that you may perhaps hesitate giving credit to them; and yet let me assure you they are strictly true, and in no wise like those fictions which are merely the children of the imagination.

Our missionaries were so charmed with the count's relation, and especially with the beauty of the young pilgrim, that they would gladly have passed the whole afternoon in listening to him, had they not been obliged to retire in order to prepare for the dispute which they had promised us that evening. The count seeing them withdraw, thought that he might now dispense with the rest of his narrative, and was preparing to take his leave; but the whole company joined in requesting him to continue his story, which he did in the following manner :

C H A P. VIII.

Continuation of the adventures of
the count de Redundo.

I HAD slept very heartily for about two hours, continued the count, when I was suddenly awakened by a great noise which I heard close to me: but how was I surpris'd, when upon opening my eyes I found myself laid along upon a litter which was carried by twelve monkeys, and guarded by above fifty more of these animals! terrified at so odd a sight I would have leapt to the ground and taken to my heels; but was stopt by a magpye who came up to me, and speaking in Portuguese, desired me to make myself easy, for that nothing but the kindest treatment was intended me. This motley ambassador farther added, that the emperor of Simiana, in whose country I then was, had sent him to let me know he would honour me with his royal protection, and was coming himself in person to assure me of it. As great as my surprise was at this extraordinary

ordinary adventure, I was not a little comforted to hear the bird speak my own language, as it gave me reason to believe that the island was inhabited by my countrymen: I was enjoying this thought when my surprise was farther increased by a sight which now offered itself. I saw a body of about three hundred monkeys approaching at fifty or sixty paces from me, towards the litter in which I was carried: I could scarcely believe my eyes in seeing the regular order which they observed in their march. Two hundred of these creatures, mounted on shag dogs came first, followed by another body of an hundred, in the midst of which I could distinguish one monkey that seemed to have an air of greater dignity than the rest, and to whom they all paid much homage. Those who composed this last corps were not mounted on dogs like the rest; but on a kind of animal very difficult to describe: it was all black, and of a form between a monkey and a dog; but so as to resemble neither of these two species, which made me think it at first sight to be an unnatural production like our mules. These creatures were distinguished from the other two species by

a lump on their heads, which was supported by three small protuberances; from whence they were called Tri-corns : they were ridden without either bit or bridle, for as I learnt afterwards, they never could be brought to suffer them either by force or fair means. They were very meek in appearance, and suffered themselves to be led as their masters pleased, till some whim took them in the head to revolt, which did not unfrequently happen, and then no rein or power could keep them within bounds ; for instead of being governed by their masters, they obliged them to go just as they pleased, and would sometime throw them headlong down a precipice and break their necks ; several monkeys of the first rank had been taught this by woeful experience, which made them stand greatly in awe of these animals, and yet (which has often made me laugh at the folly of the great in that country) there was not a person of any fashion but must keep a set of Tri-corns in his stables ; and the grand monkey himself had several studs of them.

As soon as the monkeys who escorted me, came near to this fresh troop, they set the litter upon the ground, and ran
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to pay their homage to the emperor, who, as soon as he saw me, descended from his car, and came to embrace me. Surprised at this salutation I hardly knew whether I was awake or sleeping, so very extraordinary did this whole affair appear to me : but my surprise was greatly increased when I heard the grand monkey wish me joy in Portuguese of my safe arrival in his dominions. He soon perceived my consternation, and guessing at the cause, endeavoured to encourage me by the kindest expressions : every compliment he made me, was, as I may say, a fresh charm that took from me all power of speech and motion. He was not in the least displeased with my confusion ; on the contrary, he told me, he was not at all surprised at it, and that he hoped the first conversation we had together would help to remove it. Then making me get into his chariot with him, we set out in that manner for the city of Simianopolis, which is the capital of the empire : on our arrival I was received with the greatest honours, and was lodged in a magnificent apartment next to that of the emperor's, who treated me in every respect

like a monkey of the first rank. Two little monkeys, who served him as pages, presented me with fruit, which I found to be exquisitely good: after this frugal meal a sound sleep, which lasted for some hours, perfectly refreshed me of the fatigues of the foregoing night.

As I had hitherto had no other company than that of monkeys, the first thing I thought of upon waking, was to look for some man like myself, whose conversation might make me amends for the disgraceful situation I was fallen into: with this intention I arose and took a walk thro' the city; but met with no other creature than monkeys, who were all excessively civil to me indeed; but I saw too plainly what I had to expect. Good God, cried I; to what am I reduced! Hast thou then freed me from so many dangers, only to divest me of the society of men, and make me pass my life with these animals? Alas, was I not sufficiently wretched without this fresh instance of thy wrath? But thou hast seen fit it should be so; and what can man against thy sovereign decrees? — It is ours to submit.

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The arrival of a parrot whom the grand monkey had sent to desire me to come to him, drew me from these melancholy reflections. I instantly repaired to the palace, and he no sooner saw me enter, than he inquired in the kindest manner after my health, and if I was perfectly recovered from my fatigues. I answered as well as I could; but still in such a manner, that he perceived I was not quite recovered of the surprise I had been in in the evening before, at hearing him speak to me in Portuguese; in order therefore to dissipate my apprehensions he spoke to me in the following manner:

“ I plainly perceive thro’ all the endeavours you use to conceal it, that you are not yet recovered from your first surprise. It must doubtless astonish you to be thrown upon an island inhabited wholly by monkeys, and to find me endowed with faculties you never yet met with in those creatures; but, besides that you ought to remember that the author of nature distributes a greater portion of gifts and talents, to those whom he has chosen to rule over others, I shall acquaint you with some things, which at the same time that they will help to less-

sen your wonder, may also perhaps strike you with horror. Know then, that such as you behold me, I am a man as well as yourself, and that I only wear the form of the animals over whom I reign. You shudder at this relation, perhaps it may appear incredible to you; but give attention to me, and you shall find it to be no more than truth.

“ You cannot be acquainted with Portugal without knowing the illustrious family of ****, and perhaps you may have heard speak of Donna Clementina and her adventures. My lord, replied I, I am intimately acquainted with the noble family you do me the honour of mentioning to me; and I have even heard speak of Donna Clementina; but all that is known concerning her is, that she was absent from Portugal for near ten years together, at the end of which time she appeared again, but without any one being able to know what had befallen her during her so long an absence. I am not in the least surprised at that, replied the emperor, a woman of her strict honour must blush at the thoughts even of an involuntary crime, and be desirous of burying it in eternal oblivion; and her's, which is of that kind, is

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at the same time of so strange and unheard-of a nature, that had she even been imprudent enough to divulge it, I question much whether the Portuguese, with all their credulity, would have given credit to the relation. Know then that it is to her I am indebted for life."

I was very near fainting away at this shocking account; a secret horror bereft me of my senses, and I should certainly have fallen to the earth, had not the emperor supported me. I told you, said he, when he saw me a little recovered, that the relation I was going to make you, would fill you with horror; but hear me to the end, and endeavour to keep yourself from being too much shocked at the things I am going to discover to you.

C H A P. IX.

The story of Donna Clementina,
and the loves of Grand Gula.

“ **A**S you are acquainted with the name of Donna Clementina, continued the grand monkey, you must know that she was esteemed one of the most beautiful women in all Portugal; to this beauty she owed her greatest misfortunes, as it was that which brought her into the most deplorable of all situations. I will now acquaint you in what manner : amongst the number of gentlemen who offered themselves for an husband to her, there was one who loved her with a more than ordinary passion, and whom she herself preferred to all the rest : he was of a very good family, and rich besides ; two reasons which determined the parents and friends of Donna Clementina to give him the preference to all the other suitors : in a word, they were quickly married ; but no sooner did he see himself in possession of the object of all his wishes, than his love was converted into the most extraordinary

ordinary jealousy that ever existed. Not all the fondness, nor all the virtue of Clementina, were able to cure him; and tho' she kept the strictest guard upon her steps and actions, yet whatever she did seemed criminal in the eyes of her jealous husband.

“Tormented by these groundless inquietudes, he formed a resolution to remove her far from the sight or pursuits of his imaginary rivals: accordingly he quitted Lisbon and retired to an estate had about ten miles distant from Oporto; where he employed his whole time in watching his wife's conduct. This virtuous and faithful woman who would have followed him to the midst of a desert, was a long time before she discovered the real motives of her husband's retreat; but jealousy like love cannot be kept long concealed. She found at length that her husband's assiduous attendance proceeded not so much from love, as from his unjust suspicions; this however she excused at first, well knowing that it is impossible for there to be a great love without some jealousy; and she would in all probability have been so prudent as not to have taken any notice of them
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could he have put any bounds to his transports ; but the goodness and complaisance of his wife seemed only to furnish him with fresh motives for persecuting her. In fine, Donna Clementina having brought him a daughter at the year's end after their marriage, this precious pledge which generally adds an increase to conjugal happiness, served only to augment his jealousy, which distracted his senses to such a degree, that he persuaded himself it was the fruit of his wife's adultery. Full of this mad notion he determined to be revenged on her for this imaginary disgrace, in the most extraordinary manner that ever entered into the head of man.

“ To secure the execution of his horrid design, he dissembled the rancour of his heart till she was perfectly recovered from her lying-in, when he pretended some business at Lisbon, and told her that to make the voyage more speedy he would go by sea. Donna Clementina, to whom his life was still dear, notwithstanding the unjust suspicions he entertained of her, did all that lay in her power to divert him from this resolution by representing the dangers he would run at sea, and the uneasiness she should

should suffer during his absence, and the despair she should be in if any accident should befall him; but all her remonstrances were vain, and he set out one morning unknown to her for Oporto. As soon as she heard whither he was gone, she immediately set out after him, determined if she could not prevail on him to lay aside the thoughts of this voyage, to accompany him on board, and share the dangers of the sea together with him. Alas, too tender and too faithful woman! She knew not that she was flying to her ruin; her tears and intreaties were so far from softening this unnatural wretch, that they only served to confirm him in his horrible design. He even took advantage of her tenderness to carry it into execution; a tenderness that might have disarmed the most bloody barbarian; but he on the contrary finding her resolved to accompany him (which he had supposed would be the case) had previously concerted measures with the captain of the ship to rid him of her altogether. The villain had agreed for a sum of money to land her upon some uninhabited island, from whence it would never be possible for her to return. Night coming on soon after

after they were on board, proved favorable to their wicked scheme: the husband was privately put on shore, and the ship steered right for the Brazils, whither it was bound.

“ The morning was no sooner come than Clementina inquired with great earnestness after her husband, and was answered that they had been met in the night-time by a vessel bound for Lisbon, which was a much better sailor than their own, and that he had gone on board to be the sooner there. As she expected to join him soon again, she was not much alarmed at this news; but could not help complaining of the indifference her husband shewed to her in leaving her thus exposed alone to those dangers which she had come purposely to share with him.

“ All this time the vessel having a favorable wind, sailed at a prodigious rate, and was now at above an hundred leagues distance from the coast of Portugal. Clementina who was from time to time casting her eyes about to discover if possible the ship which they had told her her husband had gone aboard, was with reason surprised that the passage from Oporto to Lisbon should be
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so long. The captain found means to amuse her with some false reasons for several days ; but at length perceiving that the ship had altered its course, she began to suspect some contrivance. Alas ! her suspicions were but too well grounded, but love still prevented her from condemning her base husband ; nay she even found out excuses for his leaving her, and forgave him from her soul : the nearer her misfortunes approached, the more unlikely she thought them ; nay the very instant of their beginning was to her a motive of joy ; for the captain coming down into the cabin, told her that they should see land the next day, and would immediately set her on shore, she was so overjoyed at this news that she intreated him to make all the sail he could, that they might reach the port as soon as possible. Unhappy Clementina, injured wife ! you knew not what it was you was wishing ; the fatal truth appeared too soon when the ship came off this island ; it could not get nearer than within two miles of the shore, on account of the rocks and sand-banks with which it is surrounded ; therefore the captain put her into the boat with four of his people, who land-
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ing her, together with some provisions for her present subsistence, rowed off again as fast as they could to the ship.

“ And now it pleased heaven to remove the mist of love that had so long clouded the eyes of this unhappy victim: finding herself left upon a barren and desolate island, as she thought, and deprived of all prospect of relief, she discovered too late her husband’s perfidy, and the treachery of the captain: in vain she had recourse to tears and supplications to engage those who had brought her on shore, to return and take her off; they were already out of hearing. At length in the height of her despair at seeing herself thus basely abandoned, she was going to throw herself into the sea, when a troop of monkeys, whom her cries had drawn to the place where she was, rushed in and saved her from death. Grand Gula, who at that time reigned over this island, and was then on a visit to the frontiers, ran himself to stop her; and now grief and the fright at seeing herself on a sudden surrounded by such a number of animals, intirely deprived her of senses; she fell down in a fit. The grand monkey com-
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passionating her condition, made her be carried to his palace, and gave her all the assistance her condition required: she was at length brought to herself; but only to feel her misfortunes with redoubled force.

“ No words can express the consternation she was seized with at finding herself in a country wholly peopled with monkeys; she hardly knew at first whether she was waking or in a dream; but as the eyes by degrees accustom themselves to every object, her's in a little time began to grow familiar with what she saw about her; and Grand Gula omitted nothing that he thought capable of making her situation as agreeable to her as possible.

“ But his assiduities were soon taken notice of by his empress, to whom they gave great umbrage; and indeed not without cause, for Grand Gula was become excessively enamoured of his fair guest; and his courtiers, as soon as they perceived his passion, were so far from persuading him against the indulging it, that they did all in their power to encourage him in his flame; representing to him that he had an undoubted right over all the females on the island; and
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consequently that this, tho' infinitely more beautiful and accomplished than the rest, was in no-wise exempted from the same law that appropriated all to his royal will; and that she might even think think herself greatly honoured by his favours. Grand Gula puffed up by their flattery, took an opportunity of disclosing his passion to her in the best manner he was able: conceive if it is possible the rage and indignation that seized on Clementina at so vile an avowal. Grand Gula finding himself treated with the last degree of contempt, began to repent of the foolish step he had taken; but his infamous advisers still continued to encourage him in the pursuit, and carried their odious complaisance so far as to offer him their service towards the completion of his wishes, if he should find it necessary to have recourse to violence upon the failure of gentler means. In a word, they took the opportunity one night that Clementina was asleep, to effect their execrable purpose.

“How lively soever your imagination may be, it will fall far short of what Clementina felt after the perpetration of this horrid act: her despair was so great
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that Grand Gula was obliged to have her strictly guarded for some years, lest she should put an end to a being now grown hateful to her : to this unnatural commerce I owe my birth ; but it seemed as if heaven was willing to mitigate the horror that Clementina felt for this involuntary crime, by giving me only the person of Grand Gula, with all the judgment and reason, and in a word all the other qualifications of my mother. Of this she was so conscious, that it in some measure abated the edge of her misfortunes. I had not quite attained my fifth year when she found me endowed with sentiments superior to any of my kind, or even to what she could have supposed to meet with in me ; this by degrees got a little the better of her aversion to me, and as my reason and faculties displayed themselves more and more, she began to think me not wholly unworthy of her care, tho' she could not help looking on me as a monster in point of birth ; she therefore in the first place endeavoured to learn me the Portuguese language ; how she succeeded I leave-you to judge : after that she proceeded to give me such instructions as were fitted to open and form the mind
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of a rational creature ; and had the satisfaction of finding her labour not thrown away.

“ Grand Gula finding in her sentiments of tenderness for me, thought it would be the last degree of cruelty to detain her any longer in confinement, and therefore ordered her to have her liberty, chusing rather to sacrifice his love, which was still as warm as ever towards her, than by a longer constraint to run the risque of losing her thro’ the effects of despair : but he little thought how quickly he should lose her. No sooner did Clementina see herself at liberty, than she cast about for means to make her escape ; but it was a considerable time before she could effect her design.

“ One day that she was walking by the sea-side, wholly occupied with the thoughts of her unhappy situation, she discovered a ship at anchor at about two miles distance from the island. How great was her joy at this sight ! she instantly ran up to the top of an high cliff, and from thence made a signal with her handkerchief, on the end of a large bough she found in her way ; it happened by good fortune that at that instant

stant the captain was taking his observation to know whereabouts he was, and perceived the signal; upon which he immediately ordered the boat to be hoisted out, and sent some of the ship's crew in it to her assistance. Clementina seeing them making towards the shore, did not wait for their landing, but threw herself into the sea, and waded towards them: when they had taken her in she gave them a thousand and a thousand thanks for their charitable assistance, conjuring them to get off from the shore as fast as possible.

“It was indeed high time; for Grand Gula, who on missing her at the accustomed hour, suspected some mischance, had ran down to the shore with his guard, and a whole train of his people: but what a sight was here for a lover! He cast forth the most piercing cries, and ordered her immediately to be pursued; but not one of his subjects would obey him: at length he threw himself into the sea, and swam towards the ship that had given asylum to his mistress. Transported with rage at the sight, he used his utmost efforts to come up with it; but the vessel getting under sail, soon carried off his Clementina

mentina from him for ever. In despair at seeing himself thus deprived of the dear object of his wishes, he plunged beneath the waves, and put an end to his unhappy days. All the monkeys who were present at this dismal spectacle, after paying the tribute of tears due to the unhappy fate of Grand Gula, proclaimed me emperor in his stead ; and I was accordingly conducted in triumph into this city, where I have managed the reins of government for the space of twelve years.

“ This, my dear countryman (for so I must call you, since I look upon myself as a Portuguese, tho’ born upon this island, my mother being a native of that kingdom) this, continued the grand monkey, is the story of my life; which has doubtless filled you with wonder and amazement, and might appear wholly incredible to you, had you not been yourself a witness to part of the facts, and that the knowledge you have of Clementina, confirms the truth of my relation. Now therefore, lay aside the surprise and concern that has taken possession of you : it is doubtless an unheard-of thing, that a monkey should have the gift of speech ; but the greatest part of that wonder ceases in a monkey like me.”

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

Which will exercise the mind of more than one reader.

NOTHING less than a relation so well circumstantiated, could have quieted my apprehensions ; and tho' I could not look at the great monkey without being surpris'd at the caprice of nature, who sometimes takes pleasure in uniting the most contrary things in her works, yet I found nothing impossible in what he told me ; for how many men do we meet with in the world, who have the exact figure of monkeys without any of the excellent qualities that shewed themselves in this ? Emboldened by the confidence he put in me, I asked him how he came to be so soon informed of my landing on his island. By a way very easy to be accounted for, said he ; you must know that a war I am engaged in against the beavers, obliges me to keep a great number of spies, not only in the capital, but in every town and village of my kingdom, that I may be perfectly informed of every

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thing that is going on : it was a party of these who discovered you upon your arrival yesterday, and immediately came to acquaint me with it : I instantly knew by their description of your figure and dress, that you must be some European who had been cast away upon this place, and I felt emotions of humanity and pity that I had never before experienced ; I even shed tears for your misfortunes, and could not resist the earnest desire I had to see you and offer you assistance. I laid aside for that time my royal dignity, and considering that one real man was of more worth than all the monkeys in the world put together, resolved to go forth and meet you, to make you an offer of every thing in my power, which from this day you may dispose of as your own, and I shall esteem myself happy, if by this slight act of generosity I can prevail on you to remain with me, and assist me with your counsels.

He concluded this speech with an embrace, from which I would rather have been excused ; however, I was obliged to receive it with respect, and to relate to him my adventures in return, with
which

which he seemed greatly moved. Just as I had finished my story, a little parrot came from Belle-queue (or Fine-tail) to acquaint his majesty that the council waited for him : I could not forbear smiling at hearing the jargon of this pretty little bird. The emperor observed it, and turning to me ; Alas ! said he, thou seest to what I am reduced ; parrots, magpies, and jackdaws are my only interpreters and confidants, and I must also have the patience to learn them to talk. As to the rest of my courtiers, they only serve to divert me with their tricks ; but now you will supply the place of them all, and I here promise to be governed for the future by your advice alone : to give you a proof of my sincerity I will take you with me this day to the council, which is held on account of an intestine war, which has long laid this kingdom waste, and which all my endeavours have hitherto been ineffectual to extinguish : you may perhaps do more in one day than we have been able to do in eighty years.

Saying this, he took me with him to the council-chamber, where we found Belle-queue and several other monkeys of

the first rank, with a great number of parrots, magpies, and jackdaws, perched on the backs of the seats. I was almost deafened with the noise and chattering of these creatures, who loaded me with a number of fulsome compliments that lasted till the great monkey had taken his seat: when all was quiet, a parrot perfectly well versed in oratory, proposed the subject of that day's debate, which was to prevent the ruin with which the empire had been threatened from its first establishment: this was no less than the total overthrow of the island, which the beavers had been for a long time privately working at, and were now on the point of effecting. Belle-queüz, who was the person that informed the council of this alarming news, had learnt by some of his spies that these creatures, in order to be revenged for the perpetual disturbances they had suffered from the monkeys for upwards of twenty years, had retired into the sea, from whence it seems they had undermined the island in such a manner, that it rested now only upon a very narrow slip of land. As the danger appeared so very pressing, the emperor was humbly besought that he would be pleased to
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take the advice of his council, in order to put the most speedy remedy to the disaster that threatened the whole kingdom.

The great monkey, alarmed at this melancholy account, begged me to give my advice in the first place; but I excused myself from it, for fear of drawing the jealousy of the courtiers upon me; and the question was put to the rest. Every one was so confounded at this unexpected stroke, that they had lost even the power of thinking; and Belle-queue, who had grown grey in affairs of state, was the only one who ventured to give his advice; and it was such a one as sufficiently proved his great understanding: He proposed to get together all the pumps that could be found in the kingdom, and to make a draught of eighty or an hundred thousand monkeys from the king's forces, who were to be sent to the sea-coasts there to work these pumps; by this means, said he, we shall suck the sea dry; after that we will directly surround the whole island, and then we shall catch the beavers in the very trap they have laid for us. Notwithstanding the ridiculousness of this project, it

was on the point of being carried by the general voice, had not a burst of laughter escaped me, in spite of all my endeavours to restrain it : a fierce look that Belle-queüe gave me, made me instantly re-assume a serious air : the emperor who as well as myself was sensible of the folly of this advice, broke up the assembly till the next day.

Belle-queüe's news had notwithstanding made so strong an impression on him, that he did not take his usual diversion of walking that day ; but shut himself up in his closet, whither he sent for me to attend him. When we were alone he asked me what I thought of this plot of the beavers, and how it might be best prevented ? I replied, that being so lately come into the island, and consequently wholly ignorant of the character of the enemy, I was apprehensive lest the advice I should give, might, instead of remedying matters, make them worse, since it was necessary to be perfectly well acquainted with a disorder before attempting a cure ; therefore, in order to remove that obstacle, I told him, I should be glad that he would be pleased to inform me of the genius of the beavers, and of the origin and progress

gress of the war that had subsisted so long time between his people and them. Your observation is very just, replied the emperor ; and this single piece of prudence is more than I have met with from all the monkeys that were present at council. Listen then to what I am going to say :

You must know that the government of this island has not been in the hands of the monkeys above eighty years ; the beavers having been in possession of it before for time immemorial ; but every thing is liable to change, and the firmest thrones are frequently overturned by accidents, which the most consummate prudence could not foresee : this has been the case here. While a beaver, the most prudent of his race, held the reins of government, the beavers and monkeys (for we were then one people) lived in that peaceful union, which is the constant fruit of a wise and equitable government, when an unforeseen accident, which had like to have been our ruin, broke this union, and by a sudden and astonishing change, transferred the empire to the monkeys ; it happened in the following manner :

One day that Augustulus (for that was the name given by way of excellence to the beaver who then governed us) had called an assembly of the states to deliberate on an affair of great importance; that wise monarch, after having proposed the matter to the assembly, gave his own advice, which was certainly the best and most prudent that could have been given on the occasion: and it was accordingly approved by all the beavers present, and by the greater part of the monkeys, and was on the point of being carried into execution, when one of our fraternity, a monkey of an ambitious and restless spirit (who had gotten the nickname of *Petite-meûle* (or Little Millstone) from an expression of his, that if he should ever come to rule the kingdom, he would crush all the beavers to death) rose up and made some objections to what the emperor had advised. The respect that every one bore the prince, would not suffer them to let such a piece of insolence pass with impunity, but raised a general hoot against the ugly brute, which threw him into so violent a rage, that he flew upon the back of Augustulus, and there began crying with all his strength, that tho' the emperor

emperor might have seen the affair in a better light than any of the rest of the assembly ; yet he as a monkey understood it still better than the emperor.

This outrageous insolence would have met with its just punishment upon the spot, had not Augustulus, who was goodness itself, ordered him to be released, contented with having him declared lunatic. Goodness carried to extremes often becomes a vice ; this was the only one which that prince could be reproached with ; and he was himself the victim of it. Petite-meûle seeing himself thus delivered from the danger he had been in, only grew more insolent upon it : he made use of his liberty to gain himself a set of creatures whose number increased so considerably, that in a little time he saw himself in a condition to take arms against his prince and benefactor, and actually marched to attack him. Augustulus laughed at first at this ridiculous army, and contented himself with sending his regiments of magpies to oppose it, who falling on the enemy with their beaks and claws, soon put them to flight ; and Petite-meûle himself was very near being taken : he took advantage of this lucky escape to raise

new forces, and return again to the field, where he was a second time defeated. However, he still preserved his courage, or rather insolent folly, amidst all his losses, and resolved to hazard a third encounter: accordingly he returned to the charge at a time when it was the least suspected; but with no better success than before. But as the flames of war when once lighted, quickly spread, this soon became general: Petite-meûle took such artful measures to strengthen his party, that he soon drew all the monkeys of the island over to his side; but not without great expence and pains; nor would he ever have been able to succeed without the assistance of the Grand Cochenillier, whom he had privately prevailed on to espouse his cause, and who now put himself at the head of the rebel forces.

Augustulus, who had always found this officer faithful, and had given him the command of his armies, suspected no treachery, and even diverted himself at the empty menaces and efforts of Petite-meûle: but when he heard that the Grand Cochenillier had betrayed him, he immediately assembled his whole forces, and putting himself
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at their head, marched to meet the enemy, who seeing him advance, prepared to give him battle, which would infallibly have ended in their total overthrow, had not some of the emperor's officers (deceived by the sight of the Grand Cochenillier, whom they still thought faithful to his prince) fallen into the snare laid for them by Petite-mêle : the battle was very obstinate ; however victory would still have declared for the beavers, if the monkeys, finding themselves pressed, had not had recourse to a stratagem : they advanced boldly towards the beavers, and presenting some bits of tinsel full in their faces, the greater part of them were so dazzled with this deceitful glitter, that they began to give way : however they still continued to dispute the field, till Augustulus perceiving the fortune of the day to turn against him, ordered a retreat to be sounded, leaving the enemies masters of the field of battle.

The monkeys, flushed with this success, had the skill to make the most of it : they pursued the beavers with vigour, and gained several considerable advantages over them ; and fortune continuing

nuing to favour them, they became in a little time masters of the capital of the empire. Augustulus now saw himself obliged to quit his throne and empire, at least for a time, to the ambitious Petite-meûle, who no sooner saw himself in possession of it, but he strictly adhered to the promise he had made of grinding the beavers ; his reign was truly a reign of iron to those poor wretches. Grand Gula, who succeeded him on the throne, acted in much the same manner towards them ; and as for myself, I will not scruple owning to you, that my favourites taking advantage of my youth, have not treated them much better ; yet I have observed with great surprise, that all these persecutions have not been able to suppress them ; on the contrary they seem to gather greater strength and increase ; they have for the present retired to the island of Biblio-Patria, from whence they return in stronger parties than ever, and push us with such vigour, that we are hardly able to defend ourselves against their repeated attacks.

And could not your majesty, replied I, send some of your subjects to that island, to furnish themselves from thence
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with defensive arms, as well as your enemies have with those for offence? It might be done, said the emperor, if the monkeys were not naturally so indolent and fond of pleasure; but the voyage thither is so long and difficult, that I do not think there are four monkeys to be met with in my whole kingdom that have ever been there. However, their love of ease has supplied them with a method of exempting themselves from the necessity of undertaking this troublesome task, which is the discovery of a certain bark, on which they stamp a figure so formidable to the beavers, that the instant it is opposed to them, they take to flight. My ministers, charmed with this discovery, caused such numbers of these to be made since I have been on the throne, that, thanks to the great Magog! there is hardly a beaver to be seen in this island; but alas! they have only retired to work our ruin more surely, by rooting this empire from its foundations, as thou mayst perceive from the account given by Belle-queüe.

Thus, my dear friend and counsellor, have I declared to thee the rise and progress of our wars with the beavers, the source of those evils, which now threaten us, and
which

which to me appear inevitable ; for how can we possibly guard against them ? Great emperor, replied I, there is nothing impossible to those princes whom heaven has endowed with qualifications like those I perceive in you : your own abilities are certainly sufficiently great to direct you to the wisest and most effectual methods ; but since your majesty has been pleased to honour me so far as to repose a confidence in me, and to ask my advice in this situation of affairs ; I am doubtless bound in gratitude and duty to give it you to the best of my power, and yet I must own myself somewhat embarrassed how to behave on this occasion : truth is not always pleasing to kings, and I am apprehensive lest my sincerity——

Do you then take me for so unreasonable a person, said the emperor, interrupting me, or that I am like those princes who always shut their ears to truth, and will suffer none but flatterers and parasites to approach them ? Do me more justice ; and, instead of confounding me with these wretches, speak to me with all freedom : he who delights only in flattery, does not deserve to receive good counsel ; but to engage
you

you more effectually to give it me, I will begin by acknowledging that I have been led to take many false steps.

This, said I, is a misfortune almost inseparable from the high station in which it has pleased heaven to place your majesty ; but would to that same heaven all princes were alike ready to acknowledge it ! However, since you have been so gracious as to grant me full liberty of speech, I must begin by saying, that in my opinion the present evils that overwhelm your kingdom, are wholly owing to those false steps you acknowledge yourself to have been led into by the pernicious advice of your ambitious counsellors. It is not by violence nor ill-treatment that subjects are to be brought to a sense of their duty ; clemency should be the chief virtue of a prince ; and he who knows only how to punish, is ignorant of the true art of reigning. What heinous crimes have your beavers been guilty of to deserve the cruel treatment they have met with ? They have endeavoured to secure themselves from the barbarities and outrages exercised upon them ; can any thing be more just and reasonable ? or is such the reward they had a right to expect for
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the pains they were at, in first laying the foundation of that empire, which has since descended to you? They are ill used, oppressed, and ruined, and their whole race are to be extirpated from the earth, because they cannot forget the insult offered by one of your people, to the most illustrious and beloved of all their princes. Should not this noble resentment, which proceeds wholly from the high respect they have for majesty, be rather a motive for trying gentle means to attach them to your interest? Or, supposing them obstinately bent on revenging the injuries done to a wise and good prince, whom they have now so long and for ever lost, is it not more than probable, that they might be brought to do every thing for you, in whose person they may find united more valuable qualifications than ever yet graced any of your predecessors? If Petite-méule, or Grand Gula, took false and ridiculous steps, is it for you to give a sanction to them by your example? Consider, that humanity places you as far above those tyrants; as you are exalted by the gift of reason above the brutes you govern: make use then of that reason on the present occasion, and
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consider that you run the risk of losing every thing by driving your people to despair. You may judge of this from what you have lately learnt by Belle-queüe—I acknowledge the justice of what you say, cried the emperor, interrupting me; but what is to be done in the present exigency? Make use of lenity, replied I; that is a never-failing remedy: the danger is threatening, I must allow, but yet perhaps not so great as it is made, nor so near at hand: dispatch instantly your parrots, magpies, and jackdaws to all parts of the kingdom, let them proclaim a general amnesty; restore union and a good understanding between the two nations; divide those honours and posts which are in your gift, equally between them both, and then perhaps you will find that the beavers are a very different people to what they have been represented to you.

How happy are the people who are governed by a prince who joins docility to penetration! The emperor was so far from being offended with my freedom, that he relished the advice I had given him: this, said he, embracing me tenderly, this is indeed the advice of a man: did

did I not tell thee that thou wouldst do more in one day, than all our monkeys would be able to compass in an age? Alas, why did it not please heaven to send thee to my assistance sooner? my reign would then have been peaceable and flourishing. But no more of that, let us not now waste an instant; it is never too late for a prince to attempt to make his people happy; and the advice you have given me, seems so excellently well calculated for bringing about this desirable end, that I do not in the least doubt, that heaven, who certainly inspired thee with it, will crown the execution with success. In consequence of these wise reflections, the emperor dispatched that very evening his magpies and jackdaws to every town and village of his dominions, to proclaim a general peace with the beavers, with assurance of restoring them again to his confidence and esteem.

While this was doing, the court was in a general consternation at the news of the intended overthrow of the island; the she-monkeys especially were alarmed beyond expression. The island seemed already buried under the waves in their imagination, and they were setting all
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their little wits to work to escape the general calamity: some depended on their dogs, others on their Tricorns; but the great difficulty was to know, whether these animals, who are of a very stubborn nature, would give their service on this occasion; for there was not much trust to be put in them; and those monkeys of the court, who had had the most experience, declared that they had often observed these creatures to be particularly headstrong and refractory at such times; and what served to increase their panic, was a certain air of exultation that appeared in the countenances of the Tricorns on this occasion, and shewed that they took the greatest pleasure in the public calamity. However, affairs did not continue long in this situation, thanks to the wisdom of the great monkey, who had, unknown to them, provided for the general safety! but I myself was very near falling a victim to the advice I had given, and in the following manner:

No sooner was the peace proclaimed, than twelve ambassadors appeared at court from the nation of beavers, to clear themselves from the accusations which had been made use of to blacken them
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in the great monkey's opinion ; and to swear a lasting and inviolable fidelity. As much as the inhabitants of Simiania were overjoyed at this happy union, so much were the Tricorns enraged at it, their disgust went so far as to occasion a general revolt amongst them, which began by those of the great monkey's stable, who, after breaking their clogs, bursting open the doors of their stables, and trampling their keepers under their feet, proceeded to join the rest of their companions who belonged to the principal monkeys of the kingdom : they now threatened to destroy every thing in the island by fire and sword, unless the war was instantly renewed against the beavers : at first these menaces were looked upon as the effects of a phrenzy that these animals are very subject to, and laughed at accordingly ; but the affair soon began to grow very serious, for in a few days afterwards all the Tricorns that were dispersed thro' the kingdom, flocked to join their comrades, and went in a body to the palace to demand of the emperor the utter extirpation of the whole race of beavers, threatening in case of a refusal, to make him feel the effects of their vengeance.

geance. This insolence, and the empire that these animals had for a considerable time obtained over the principal monkeys of Simiania, threw the whole court into the greatest consternation. The great monkey himself was at a loss how to appease this mutiny ; when a beaver, in the name of all his brethren, who were desirous of giving this proof of their attachment to the royal person, demanded, by an interpreter, leave to offer combat to the Tricorns : as it is only our ruin that they seek, said he, it is not just that your majesty or your subjects should expose yourselves in our cause : let us alone meet the storm, perhaps it may not be so terrible as it seems : this is not the first time we have entered the lists with them, and come off with victory ; may we not have the same success now when we fight for the defence of your majesty's sacred person, and the preservation of that liberty to which you so lately restored us ?

The emperor, equally delighted with their courage and fidelity, answered them, that he would willingly agree to their request, if the danger was less urgent, and that the Tricorns would only give them time to assemble their forces.

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There is no occasion for that, replied the beaver by his interpreter ; there are but twelve of us here, and they are about ten thousand in number, yet are we not in the least dismayed at this vast superiority : it is not numbers, but courage that gains battles ; therefore give us but your permission to enter the lists with them, and leave us to answer for the success.

The great monkey was astonished at such intrepid valour ; but the fear of losing such valuable subjects, and of lighting up an intestine war that might in the end transfer the reins of government to the Tricorns, as it had formerly done from the beavers to the monkeys, determined him to refuse his permission for the desired combat, and thought to restore quiet by proposing terms of accommodation to the Tricorns. But these animals who really aspired to the government, which they made themselves sure of keeping by the influence they had with the grantees of the kingdom, refused to listen to any propositions, and grown proud and insolent of their numbers, threatened to dethrone the emperor that instant, unless he complied with the terms

terms they dictated to him. All had now been lost, if the deputies of the beavers, exasperated at the insolence of their implacable enemies, had not resolved to revenge his imperial majesty even against his own consent. In this determination they flew out of the palace, and rushed into the midst of the Tricorns, like lions: these creatures were struck with dread at the sight of the tremendous arms worn by their adversaries; they endeavoured in vain to make use of those barks which they had seen their masters employ against them on the like occasions, and of which they had provided themselves with an ample store; for as the emperor had forbidden the use of them since the conclusion of the peace with the beavers, they no longer stood them in any stead, and they found themselves at length obliged to yield, but not till after an obstinate fight, in which above eight thousand Tricorns were trodden under foot by their enemies. The rest saved themselves by flight, among the woods and inaccessible parts of the island, where they remained to conceal their shame and ignominy.

It is easy to imagine the joy with which this event filled the emperor and
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the whole court, which soon spread itself through all the kingdom; every one expressing their satisfaction by the most public rejoicings: Belle-queüe, was the only one who did not share in the general joy; the loss of above thirty beautiful Tricorns, of which he was passionately fond (having his stables constantly filled with numbers of these animals) this loss I say, added to a jealousy which he had secretly conceived against me for having brought about a peace with the beavers without his participation, hindered him from bearing any part in the public happiness, and determined him to conspire my ruin; in which he was joined by some others of the courtiers, who were equally jealous of the preference shewn me by the emperor. The danger that threatened me was so much the greater, as they kept their design extremely secret. It was not however so perfectly concealed, but that Beau-museau (or Pretty-muzzle) his spouse, got notice of it; and as she had entertained a secret passion for me, she sent a parrot to me one day, with a message to meet her at the sea-side, having something of the greatest consequence to impart to me: I immediately followed

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ed the messenger, and found Beau Museau waiting for me, who after having explained her passion for me, by a thousand odd grimaces and rolling of her eyes, revealed her secret to me by means of a trusty parrot, who was her confident. At first I imagined this was no other than a scheme of hers, to engage me the more readily to receive the declaration of her passion; but I was soon undeceived, by seeing Belle-queuë approach at the head of a troop of monkeys completely armed; and began to find that her information was but too well founded. Beau Museau fled away the instant she perceived them; and I should have followed her example, had not Belle-queuë, who came determined to destroy me, and found his resentment encreased by surprizing me in private conference with his wife, spread his little Squadron in such a manner, as to cut off all means of flight. I was now on the point of being surrounded, and should certainly have fallen a victim to their rage, had I not had the presence of mind to throw myself into the sea, where I was immediately out of their reach.

This was running into one danger to escape another, of which I was instantly sensible; but not knowing what course to take, I began to swim at hazard, when I saw a beaver, who upon knowing me, had flung himself into the water, and came swimming directly towards me, offering me his back to seat myself upon, which I immediately accepted, trusting to Providence, whom I thought had doubtless sent that animal to deliver me from the danger I was in. He had carried me in this manner for the length of four or five miles, when I thought I discovered a vessel at anchor in the offing. I immediately flung myself off his back, and swam directly towards the place where the ship lay; but whether the animal himself was going that way, or whether he suspected my design, I know not, but he followed me, and in swimming mounted me again on his back: by this means in less than an hour's time we got up with the vessel, and he carried me close along-side. The sailors, astonished at this prodigy, threw me a ladder of ropes, by which I climbed up into the ship; and turning towards my deliverer
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and guide, to thank him for his services, he no sooner saw me take my leave of him, than he instantly plunged under the waves, and swam back to the island from whence he had so generously brought me off in safety.

C H A P. XI.

A sermon on the sixth commandment, followed by an odd masquerade. The fatal accident occasioned by it. The tragical end of the mission.

IT seemed as if our missionaries had waited for the count's finishing his story before they began their conference ; for no sooner had he ended than the bell rung. By my soul, said D. Antonio, here is too much talking without drinking. Come, signor count, here's your health, not forgetting the honest emperor : by Saint Jago he was a very good kind of a man, setting aside his figure ; and I think it a thousand

pities - he had to do with such a set of rascally beasts as those same Tricorns; but you will find such vermin every where, that can neither be quiet themselves, nor let others be so. By this good bottle, had I been in your place, I would have made them drink; look you, I would have made them drink, till I could have brought them all to a right way of thinking; for you know, *Bacchus rixas composcet et iras*, as Solomon excellently well observes
 ——Capite——nescio quo.

This learned fally of my uncle's diverted me as much as the count's story, which he had just been relating to us, and which I could not help looking upon as the mere effects of his invention, to make me amends for the fears that the first part of his adventures had drawn from me. However, D. Antonio, and some old politicians who were of the company, took it in a quite different light, and maintained, that there was a great deal of truth in the latter part; but the slender opinion that I entertained of their understandings, hindered me from subscribing to that opinion: but whatever was the

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the case, this entertaining relation procured the count the thanks of all the company; and Castilmoro overflowed with expressions of civility and friendship, insisting that the new pilgrims should take up their lodging at his house till the next day at least. The count would have excused himself from accepting of this offer; but the whole company having reminded him of the promise he made to inform us of the reason of his present pilgrimage, of which he had not yet taken the least notice, he suffered himself to be prevailed on in order to give us the satisfaction we desired.

I was divided between the pleasure I took in his company, and that which I promised myself from being present at the conference to be held by our monks, which I was well persuaded would produce something very extraordinary. I knew not whether the count perceived my embarrassment, but seeing Castilmoro rise from table, in order to go to church, Sir, said he, turning to me, I imagine you had an intention of returning again to church, when we had the honour of meeting with you. I answered

him frankly, that I had an intention to go and hear a conference that was to be held by our missionaries, but that the pleasure I took in his agreeable company——God forbid, young gentleman, said the count, interrupting me, that I should be the hindrance of so good a work; on the contrary it would give me great pleasure, as I have promised to stay in this place to-night, to accompany you thither. Come, Madam, said he, addressing himself to the young pilgrim, let us go and hear the word of God, and set an example of decorum to the people, whom we ought to edify, as much by our devotion as by our penance.

At these words I could not help casting my eyes on the young pilgrim, whose face was covered with blushes while the count was speaking. She immediately arose and followed him, and we proceeded all together to the church, where we found a prodigious crowd of people that had been drawn thither by their curiosity, and in particular all the young people of both sexes. We had scarcely taken our places, when one of the monks got up in the pulpit, and began

began to give us a lecture against lewdness ; and to obviate all reflections that the nature of such a subject might bring on him, he told us that he had two reasons which induced him to preach on that head : the first was, because there was hardly one in the world exempt from that sin (this was paying a great compliment to his audience, and to human nature in general) : the second was, because there was hardly any sin of that kind but what was mortal ; so that it was of the greatest consequence for every one to be perfectly well instructed in the nature of it, in order that they might the better discharge their consciences at confession : this the good preacher laboured to do through the whole of his sermon, which was nothing but one continued scene of obscenities from the beginning to the ending. However, these things seemed of such consequence to him, that he was continually desiring his audience to follow him step by step in his curious detail ; but indeed there was no occasion for this admonition, for he was listened to with more attention, than if he had preached upon the most edifying subject, or had even made the panegyric of some new saint.

It may easily be imagined what kind of impression this was likely to make on the minds of a number of young people. The monk, either perceiving this, or having a suspicion what might be the effects of his discourse, thought to obviate every thing of that nature by terrifying his audience with images as dreadful as the others had been flattering and delightful : with this view he painted to us, in lively colours, the punishment reserved for those who gave themselves up to such kinds of wickedness. He then proceeded to a frightful description, of the lakes of fire and brimstone, wherein the souls of lewd and debauched people are eternally steeped, and the vipers that gnaw them without ceasing in those very parts which were the chief instruments of their sin. In short, he exhausted all his rhetoric to inspire his audience with as great dread and terror, as he had before raised in them concupiscence and wanton thoughts.

In this he might perhaps have succeeded, had not one of his brethren, at that very instant, stirred anew this filthy jakes, by rising up, and playing the true

true part of the devil's advocate. After having censured the foregoing doctrine as too severe, he undertook to justify the propensity that all men have to this vice, by the manner of God's dealing with them, in permitting concupiscence to remain with them after baptism. From hence he concluded, that it was so far from being an evil, that on the contrary it was a great good, inasmuch as it gave a number of subjects every day to the state, of children to the church, and of saints to paradise; and in order to soften a little the description which his brother had given of the dreadful torments reserved for those who were guilty of this sin, he told us, that their greatest punishment consisted in being deprived for ever of the object of their passions. It was impossible for incredulity to be carried farther than this; therefore the preacher, after doing his best to refute the objections raised against his doctrine by his adversary, ended, by declaring that he deserved that God to punish him for his Epicurean principles, should suffer him to behold the state of one of these vicious souls.

This was doubtless the watch-word agreed upon between them; for no sooner

had the monk uttered these words, than we saw a monster issue from out the vestry, that I was for some time at a loss what to make of : it was a goat, which these reverend fathers had made choice of as the fittest representative of lewdness ; that he might play his part the better, they had rubbed the poor beast all over with pitch and brimstone, and other combustible matter ; and to give him still a more monstrous appearance, they had dressed him up in a robe of fine gauze, with all the other appurtenances of female attire. The whole congregation were struck with surprise at so odd a sight ; and the disputant, who had hitherto gloried in his incredulity, burst out into a loud laughter at it, but his tone was quick changed ; for a match being put to a fuzée, which was fixed to the creature's tail, in an instant he appeared all in flames, to the no small terror and confusion of the whole assembly.

We might perhaps have recovered from the first surprise, but the goat finding himself burnt, began to run up and down through the church, which was immediately filled with the most horrible shrieks

shrieks and cries ; every one tumbling over another to get out at the door, thinking the devil himself was at their heels ; and indeed the uproar and confusion amongst us made the place resemble hell more than any thing else.

All this while the poor beast continued jumping and leaping about at a dreadful rate, endeavouring to free himself from the fire that was consuming him : where-ever he came he spread terror and dismay, and such a smell of brimstone that almost suffocated us ; at length he got to the place where they kept the holy water, and jumping into it to cool himself, expired in a few moments ; which being seen by one of the congregation, he cried out with a loud voice, Vivat vivat, the devil is dead.

This joyful news made us all easy for a while, but our confusion was soon renewed, upon hearing that two ladies in the place had miscarried with the fright ; and that two others had been stifled in the throng. They were all four immediately carried out, and I knew one of them to be the lady of D. Pompeo, the lord of the manor. This melancholy sight so incensed the congregation

gregation against the missionaries, that they began to load them with curses and execrations. The reverend fathers finding matters grow so serious, and fearful lest the populace should proceed to extremities, hurried as fast as possible out of the church, and returned to their good friend the licentiate, where they imagined they should be secure from all further insults.

They were so indeed from the populace, but their reverences were not a little surprised, when about an hour afterwards they saw D. Pompeo enter the house with an officer of justice and a band of sbirris. D. Pompeo would certainly have sacrificed these wretches in the first transports of his fury, had he not been with-held by the officer, who, to pacify him, promised that he should instantly have justice done him, not only for the injury he had suffered by them in this affair, but likewise for the loss of the two thousand five hundred ducats, which his steward had refunded to them for his use; and accordingly ordered his people to seize them directly, and convey them to the prison at Villaleda.

D. Castil-

D. Castilmoro, who was greatly concerned at this accident, used all his endeavours to obtain some mercy for them, but in vain; which when they saw, one of them thought to succeed better by offering a sum of money for his ransom: his companions followed his example, and drew out each a large purse full of gold, which they offered to the officer; who, after taking it, put on a sterner air than before: Ah, ah! said he, is it so? I thought to have laid hold of you only as disturbers of the public peace, but I see now that what Signor Pompeo told me is true, and that you are all rogues and thieves; ay, ay, this quantity of money is a plain proof of it.

The monks began to exclaim violently against this latter accusation, alleging in their excuse, that the money was what had been given them in alms for the poor during the course of their mission; but the officer soon stopt their mouths, by ordering his people to take them away to prison; and you, Sir, said he, addressing himself to D. Pompeo, will be pleased to take this money in part of what these venerable fathers have defrauded

defrauded you of :—so saying, he took his leave, and marched off with the four missionaries.

Thus ended this curious mission, after having cost three persons their lives, and many others their health and limbs, without any advantage but what accrued to the curates and parish-clerks of the neighbouring villages, who found a considerable increase in their christenings about that time nine months. Poor Castilmoro was so confounded and afflicted at this unhappy event, that I certainly thought it would have turned his brain, had we not out of charity kept him company for some time in order to divert his melancholy, by procuring him all the amusement in our power.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Conclusion of the story of the
Count de Redundo.

AFTER what had happened, it may easily be imagined, that we could not be very merry for that evening. Castilmoro was, as I have said before, almost inconsolable : my uncle, notwithstanding his antipathy to monks in general was, or at least appeared to be, a good deal concerned at the disgrace which had befallen them, and had recourse to eating and drinking, as the best antidotes against melancholy. The rest of the company observed a solemn silence out of complaisance ; so that the whole conversation lay between the count and myself, which was not near so sprightly as it would have been under any other circumstances : but Castilmoro retiring after supper, in order to give a vent to his sorrows, and lament in private the misfortunes of his brethren, good humour began to return
by

by degrees amongst us. By St. Anthony, said my uncle, addressing himself to the count, it is better living here than in your Simiania; we have good eating and drinking at least, and are not in fear of these plaguy Tricorns. This speech put the whole company in mind of claiming the count's promise; who accordingly gave us the conclusion of his adventures in the following terms.

As soon as I was safe on board the ship, whither my friendly beaver had conveyed me, I desired to see the captain, that I might make him my compliments: I was accordingly presented to him, and had no sooner told him who I was, than he very civilly led me down to the apartment of the viceroy of Brazil, who was then on board going to take possession of his government; but how great was my joy and surprise, when I knew him to be the count de Marialva, one of my most intimate friends: I immediately flung myself about his neck, and embraced him tenderly, returning a thousand thanks to heaven for this happy encounter. The count himself was so astonished, that he was some few minutes before he could

could answer me ; at length recovering from his astonishment, O heavens ! cried he, pressing me in his arms, is it you my dearest friend, that I behold ! you whom I and all Lisbon imagined to have perished in the waves ! by what happy chance was you preserved from the fatal end that befel your companions ? Alas, I have lamented you as dead for above six months ! I was even thinking of you the very instant you entered my apartment : judge then how great must be my surprise and joy at seeing you so unexpectedly—but I do the countess an injury in delaying so long to share it with her, who has often joined her tears to mine on your account, and will now take as great a part in my satisfaction.

With these words he conducted me to the countess's apartment, who was so surprised at seeing me, that she at first thought it had been my apparition ; but the count having brought her a little to herself, they both intreated me to sit down and give them a relation of my adventures, and the manner in which I was delivered from the disaster by which the rest of my companions perished.

I accordingly gave them a full account of every thing that had befallen me, in the same manner as I have already done to this good company ; at which they could not sufficiently express their surprise. When I had finished my relation, they felicitated me on the miraculous escapes that I had had, and insisted that we should not part during the voyage ; the count at the same time ordering one of his own apartments to be made ready for me. Thus we past whole days together in the most social and friendly manner, which, added to the tender and obliging assiduities of the count and his worthy lady, somewhat abated the edge of my grief. This voyage was as prosperous as my former had been unhappy, and we arrived in safety at St. Salvador, without having met with the least accident by the way.

My intention when I left Lisbon was, to procure myself some settlement in the Brazils, where I might live without being an incumbrance to my friends. With this view I had taken with me all the ready money I was possessed of, which was lost when I was cast away. The count was acquainted with this circumstance,

circumstance, and in order to spare me the confusion that I must have been in with any other person, generously offered me his table, and a genteel apartment in his house, which I accepted for the present only, and till I could receive news from Portugal, whither I had written for a supply of money: as every one there thought me dead, I was a long time without receiving any answer; would to heaven I had never had one! The only news I received was, what I then thought but too true, the death of my daughter. I was almost as much affected with this loss, as I had been with that of my wife; and I should certainly have followed those dear relations thro' excess of grief, but for the friendly cares of the generous count and his lady, who omitted nothing that they thought would administer to my comfort. In short, we there passed many years together in that delightful, social union, which is the true bond of friendship, and which very few of human kind are capable of tasting.

This happy union would in all probability have lasted during our lives, had not love, that tyrant of the heart, interposed

posed to hinder it ; not contented with what he had already made me suffer, he resolved to make me once more his captive ; which he effected by the following accident.

The count having made a voyage to Portugal, at his return brought over with him the marchioness of Sardoal his sister-in-law, who could not resist the longing desire she had to see the countess. Among her women attendants was a young lady of incomparable beauty ; the sweetness of her temper soon gained her the heart of the countess, who made her her friend and confidant. As I had frequent opportunities of seeing her with that lady, I soon felt that she was not indifferent to my heart ; but what I had already suffered for that fatal passion, made me resolve to use my utmost efforts to prevent myself from falling into the same snare for the future : I fled all occasions of seeing her, but in vain, for I found I carried her image deeply imprinted on my heart ; and what served to attach me the more to her, was a certain resemblance which I thought I perceived in her with my dearest Theresia, whom I had so tenderly loved : seduced by this flattering
notion,

notion, I sought her company again in spite of myself ; I even observed that her beautiful eyes were frequently fixed upon mine, and with a tenderness which could only be attributed to sympathy, seemed to catch my sorrows, and dropt tears of compassion, which went to my very soul.

Such was the situation of us both, when one day finding myself alone with her, I ventured to ask her the cause of so extraordinary a behaviour : have I been unhappy enough, Madam, said I, to offend you in any thing ? The tears which I see you shed whenever I appear before you, make me fear it, and yet I do not know that I have given you the least cause of displeasure. Ah, Sir, replied Leonora (for that was the name by which she then went) how ill do you judge of my sentiments, if you believe that the tears I shed proceed from any dislike at the sight of you ! Alas ! they flow from a very different source ; but the natural modesty and reserve proper to be preserved by my sex forbid me to explain the real motives ; the emotion I feel at present, while I look on you, makes me apprehensive lest my heart should in spite of prudence discover

ver itself. Permit me then, Sir, to withdraw and vent those tears elsewhere, which you may perhaps still reproach me with as a fault: she quitted me with these words, and entered into the countess's apartment.

The confusion into which these words of her's threw me, was so great, that it took from me all power of following her, and I was so affected as to shed tears myself; never had I felt myself in such a condition since the death of my dear Theresia. The count, who came in at that instant, perceived the disorder I was in; What is the matter, my dear friend? said he, embracing me; you seem much moved! Ah! cried I, ask me not the cause; it is such an one as you will never forgive; leave me to weep in secret my own misfortunes, and content yourself with pitying your unhappy friend, whom perhaps you would no longer honour with that precious name, did you know what passes in his heart. The count said every thing that friendship could inspire him with to comfort me; but seeing that all his endeavours proved vain, he quitted me and went into his wife's apartment, where he found Leonora with her face all bathed in tears.

Surprised

Surprised at the sight, he did not know at first what to think ; however, the friendship he had for me, and the young lady's known virtue, dispelled every injurious suspicion that might have otherwise arisen in his breast.

The abrupt departure of Leonora, and the care that she afterwards took to avoid me, was so far from lessening my passion for her, that it only served to make it burn the fiercer. The count was not long without perceiving this : my visits were now less frequent, and I did not unbosom myself to him as usual ; from all which he conjectured, that I must have some engagements elsewhere, in which he was not deceived. Love is one of those passions which admits of no sharer, but will have the whole possession of the heart. Leonora was the mistress of mine, but I knew not whether I possessed her's in return. The count, who was particularly concerned to have this affair cleared up, made that discovery which I had so long and so ardently wished. He had a private interview with Leonora on this subject, in which she frankly owned to him, that she felt for me what she had never felt for any man before ; adding, that how-
ever

ever deep an impression I might have made on her heart, I had nothing to fear on her account ; for that her own virtue and the tender love she had for me, would never allow her to exceed the bounds of decency, and what she owed to her own sex. The count de Marialva was very ready to believe what she said, but as he was not unacquainted with the hearts of women, he did not choose to repose an implicit confidence in their words: therefore, to prevent any future bad consequences, he resolved to discover to me what he knew ; but how great was my joy, when I heard from his mouth that the beautiful Leonora really loved me ! The prudent advice my friend gave me on this occasion served only to increase my passion, which was now grown to such an height, as not only to have swallowed up the remembrance of my dear Theresia's loss, but even to make me believe, that I should taste with this lovely person all the happiness I had enjoyed in my first marriage. One thing however threw a considerable damp upon my hopes, which was, that upon the report that had prevailed in Lisbon of my being certainly dead, my relations had taken possession

possession of my fortune, so that I found myself out of a condition of providing for Leonora in a manner suitable to her merit, or my own inclination. I could see but one way to remove this obstacle, which was by taking her with me to Portugal, where my presence would be more than sufficient to recover all my fortune and effects.

When I made her this proposal she readily came into it, on condition that the marchioness and the countess would give their consent. Charmed with having so easily gained her consent, I ventured to mention it one day to the count, who seemed greatly surprized at it: What, my dearest friend, cried he, are you then going to leave me? have I unwittingly given you any cause of complaint? what can so suddenly call you to Portugal? My affairs, answered I; you know that part of my fortune is already in the hands of others: your friendship has hitherto prevailed on you to supply all my wants, but I cannot without blushing continue any longer to be such a burthen to you; I am resolved to recover my own, that I may have it in my power to repay some of the many obligations I lie under to you.

VOL. II.

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You

You would not talk thus, replied the count; did you love as you have formerly done, but that happy time is no more, your heart is another's, to whom you sacrifice me. I should certainly complain of this treatment, did I not know that friendship ought to give place to love; nevertheless, I love you too well to withhold from you my advice in relation to the step you are about to take. You love Leonora, my dear friend; it is in vain to go about to deny it; it is a long time since I have perceived this passion: I should be very far from blaming a passion, when founded on real merit; Leonora is without doubt a very amiable person, but let not your passion carry you to do that which you will hereafter have a thousand reasons to repent of, as it is said you intend to make her your wife; and your desire of going away with her seems to confirm this report; and yet I cannot but entertain a better opinion of your judgment and prudence, than to think that you will rashly venture to do an action that will one day cause you the utmost despair.

These words of the count's were so many poniards to my heart; I begged him

him to explain himself, which he for a long time refused, till at length by my intreaties he consented. I now see, my dear friend, said he, that you love Leonora in reality, and think you may aspire to the possession of her without the fear of being refused : Leonora is without doubt a person formed to make any one happy for whom she has a passion ; she has beauty, virtue, and exalted sentiments ; but you know the decorums to be observed by people of our rank, and that an error in alliance is seldom or never overlooked : I can venture to say that this would be the greatest you could possibly be guilty of : I know who Leonora is ; let it suffice then that I advise you as a true friend to weigh and think seriously on what you are about to do ; after that you have both of you full liberty from me to go to Europe whenever you please ; the only favour I have to ask in return, is, that you will never cease to love and remember me.

Nothing could equal my surprise at hearing the count talk in this manner ; I hardly knew at first what to think of it. However, the justice he had done to the charms and virtue of Leonora

confirmed me in my love ; and I was so blinded with my passion, that I imagined he only spoke in this manner to deter me from my purpose, as being unwilling that his wife and sister should be deprived of so amiable a companion, for whom they had the greatest love and friendship ; but this did not appear a sufficient reason to me for debarring myself of the happiness of possessing her. Accordingly, I remained fixed in my resolution to embark with her in the first ship that was bound to Portugal, which we did in less than a fortnight afterwards ; and after a very favourable voyage, arrived safe in Lisbon.

As my whole thoughts were upon marrying Leonora the instant I had settled my affairs, I lost no time in making my arrival known to my family. The first I applied to was D. Gonzalez de Tentayro, the same to whose care I had trusted my daughter at my leaving Lisbon, and who, on the report of my death, had taken possession of my fortune. It seems as if Providence had inspired me with this thought to save me from committing the most horrid of all crimes ; I found him on his death bed just ready to expire. However, he
had

had strength and understanding enough left to know me again. Ah ! my dear count, said he to me with a dying voice, is it you I behold again ? What thanks do I owe to heaven, who has sent you here to receive my last breath, and to be informed by me of a secret that has long lain heavy on my conscience ! but before I reveal it to you, let me engage your promise that you will not revenge the injuries I have done to you on my poor children : Alas ! they are guiltless, it is on me alone that your vengeance ought to fall, and you should have ample satisfaction did it please heaven to grant me longer life. I bound myself by an oath to do as he desired, promising to forgive whatever he might have done to injure me, and even to do every thing in my power to be of service to him. Alas ! he cried, I am unworthy of such goodness——My strength fails me——I have not power left to reveal to you my heinous crimes——Father Matthew de Cordosa, who has for a long time been my confidant, and D. Manuel de Sousa, who has my last will in his hands, are the persons who will inform you of what the near approach of death prevents me from re-

vealing to you myself. Farewel, dear count; I restore to you by my death those possessions which I have wrongfully kept from you: may you one day be blessed with the sight of your dear child.

He had no sooner uttered these words than he sunk down in his bed and expired. I went that very day to the Paulists convent to ask for the father whom Gonzalez had mentioned to me, and begged him to acquaint me with the important secret which his friend had at his death given him permission to reveal to me. How little confidence is to be reposed in man! The father at first loaded me with civilities; but as soon as he heard my name, and that I was come to recover my estate out of the hands of those who had taken possession of it on a false report of my death, he intirely altered his behaviour, and with an ironical tone told me, that if that was all my business I might have spared myself the fatigue of so long a voyage. The count, said he, whose name you assume, has been dead above these fourteen years, so that if you had any designs upon his estate you should have thought of putting your project in execution before, for it is now somewhat
of

of the latest. D. Gonzalez de Tentay-ro, who probably foresaw some trick of this kind, having very prudently provided against it, by giving that whole estate, and a part of his own, to our poor fathers of Paraguay. I am extremely sorry, Sir, added he, that you are come so late, but doubtless it was by the work of God, to prevent the poor ministers of the gospel from being deprived of so valuable a gift.

It would be difficult to express the rage this speech of the father's threw me into : had it been any one but a churchman who had treated me thus, his life should have been the immediate forfeiture of his insolence ; but the folly of mankind have given the monks a power of doing every thing with impunity. All that I had left to do therefore was, to inquire of him by what right they pretended to keep me out of my estate ? By right of a will, replied he with great coolness, which you shall see in proper time and place. I did not stay to make him any answer, but quitted him hastily, lest in the first emotion of my passion I should have been prompted to sacrifice him to my revenge. From thence I immediately

repaired to the house of D. Manuel de Sousa, to whom I related every thing that had passed between the father and me ; at which he was so surpris'd that he could hardly give credit to it ; but at length, be of good courage, Sir, said he, you have nothing to fear on that side, I am the only person intrusted with the last will of D. Gonzalez, which I know to be of a very different tenor ; besides, he has given me in charge to reveal a secret to you that cannot fail of giving you the highest satisfaction, which is, that your daughter is still living.

This comfortable news made me in an instant drop my rage against the monk Cordosa ; the recovery of my dear child giving me more joy than the loss of my fortune had resentment. I begged D. Manuel to inform me by what accident it happened that the news was spread of her death, and where I might fly to find her. In an house, said he, which it will not be very agreeable to you to see her, and know that she has been educated there ; but as she is yet young, your company and conversation may easily repair what is defective in her education : you must know,

know, continued he, that D. Gonzalez has her brought up under a fictitious name in the house for poor orphans; upon the news of your death, which we all believed true, this unnatural relation had her privately conveyed thither; and to secure to himself the full possession of your fortune, gave out that she was dead. It is now upwards of fourteen years since she was first put into that house, where she would in all probability have remained for ever in a state of obscurity, but for the disorder which occasioned the death of D. Gonzalez. Stung with remorse he sent to me while he was on his sick bed, and revealed the whole secret to me, making me promise to take her out of that house and re-instate her in the possession of her rights. You are now come to save me the trouble; I willingly yield my office into the hands of a tender parent.

After D. Manuel had done speaking we went together to the orphan's house, where we inquired for my daughter by the name of Leonora; the conformity of this name with that of the young lady, whom I was on the point of marrying, did not strike me at first; but when the superior told D. Manuel that

she had been taken out by the marchioness of Sardeal, who had carried her with her to the Brazils, I immediately discovered that I was already in possession of the precious treasure I was in search of, whose supposed loss had cost me so many tears. My joy at this happy event would have been much greater, had it not been damped by a rising remorse. I could not forbear blushing at the thoughts of having indulged too warm a passion for an object that ought to have been dear to me indeed, but in a different sense : but friendship for woman being so near a-kin to love, and that which I bore my dear Camilla (which is my daughter's real name) being the most sincere that could be felt, my heart confounding the sentiments made me take the one for the other. I now returned thanks to God, who in his goodness had stopped me on the brink of the precipice into which I was ready to fall ; and taking my leave of the superior and D. Manuel, I flew home to acquaint my dear Camilla with the happy tidings : she blushed as I had done at having given way to sentiments more tender than they should have been ; and we made a mutual promise to do penance for our error as soon

as my affairs would permit of my being absent. But we were detained some time from putting it into execution by the avarice of the Paulists, which obliged me to commence a suit against them, where their knavery in the forging a false will being fully discovered, I was re-instated in the full possession of my fortune, which they out of their abundant charity would have with-held from me. As soon as this affair was decided, we both of us set out on a pilgrimage to St. Jago de Compostella, to supplicate Almighty God to forgive us a crime, which, but for his preventing grace, had been carried to more enormous lengths.

This gentlemen, continued the count, is the true reason of our pilgrimage, and we earnestly intreat the assistance of your prayers, and those of every good christian, that we may meet with that pardon we are going in search of.

The whole company were so charmed at the count's relation, and the edifying piety that appeared in him and his amiable daughter, that they promised to a man to offer up their prayers to God for them ; and D. Antonio assured the count, that he would for his part give
him

him fifty masses, on condition that he would put his story into writing for him, so much was he delighted with it. This the count promised to do, and kept his word the next day ; and from this manuscript I have taken it. As it was now late in the evening the count and his daughter withdrew, but our honest curates staid to crack the other bottle, and then every one retired to bed.

END of the THIRD BOOK.

THE

THE
HISTORY
OF
Don RANUCIO D'ALETES.

BOOK IV.

CHAP. I.

Ranucio goes to Evora. His encounter by the way. A portrait of the Collegians. A story relating to them.

WE staid some time longer at Masfilia ; but I began to be as weary of my situation now, as I had been pleased with it during the time that the mission lasted : this would not have been the

the case had the count de Redundo and his amiable daughter remained with us, but they left us the very next day. I should certainly have followed their example, had not complaisance for my uncle with-held me. However, chance threw an opportunity in my way which I was very ready to embrace : a few days after the missionaries had been sent to prison, the lady of D. Pompeio died of the miscarriage she got from the fright in the church, at which her husband, who was tenderly fond of her, was so enraged, that he determined to leave nothing undone to revenge himself on the monks who had been the authors of his misfortune ; and to this purpose applied himself to the corrigidor, to whom he told his story in so pathetic a manner, that this officer promised to prosecute them to the utmost ; and accordingly summoned a number of the inhabitants by name to give in their depositions against the missionaries.

This new accident redoubled Castilmoro's fears, and being apprehensive that I should be cited with the rest, and that I would not have courage enough to give a false oath to serve his brethren, agreed with D. Antonio that I should
be

be sent out of the way. This was the very thing I wanted; as we were but a little distance from Evora, and I had never seen that city nor its famous university, I answered Castilmoro, when he asked me what place I would chuse to go to, that I should be glad to take a journey thither. I commend your curiosity, replied the good licentiate; and since you are desirous of visiting that city, I will give you letters of recommendation to some friends of mine there (of which I have a great number) who will take a pleasure in showing you every thing that is curious. I was highly pleased with this generous offer, and begged of him to put it in execution as speedily as possible, which he did the very next day, when Ambrose and I set out together for Evora.

We had got near two-thirds of the way, when I was suddenly surpris'd by a confused noise of mens voices and the trampling of horses feet, and turning back to see what it might be, I discovered about thirty horsemen coming out of a little wood to our left-hand; they appeared armed, and seem'd to advance hastily towards the place where we were: I was greatly alarmed at their numbers,

bers, and took them for a gang of robbers, who were coming to fall on us : in order therefore to get away from them, if possible, I began to spur Castilmoro's mule, to put her upon the gallop ; but as if every thing that belonged to churchmen was to partake of their sluggishness, the resty beast would not budge a step farther ; seeing therefore that there were no hopes of avoiding them, we resolved to sell our lives as dear as possible, and drawing our swords, Ambrose and I put ourselves upon our guard, and waited for their coming up.

But we soon found we had no occasion for this precaution, for when they drew near to us we perceived them to be a company of young collegians, who were going like us to Evora, and who had no other arms than a large string of beads, which they were employed in telling as they rode along. If I was heartily frightened at the first sight of them, I now laughed as heartily at my folly ; as did Ambrose, who had been under no less apprehension than myself. Signor Ranucio, said he, these are the gentry that threw us into such a panic, are they not ? by St. Gregory, if we are never slain by any other weapons

pons than what they carry about them, we shall have very devout deaths, and be sure of going to heaven into the bargain. She now found herself obliged to follow the same tract with this church-ambulant ; for my mule, which would not stir a step before, began now to set out in such a manner that there was no stopping him, being as I suppose highly pleased with his company. In order therefore to see if they were as much to my taste, I began a conversation with one of them ; but to my no small surprise found that it was impossible to get a single word out of them : I soon perceived that they were all so busied in telling their beads, that they had not leisure to make any answer ; accordingly I waited with patience till they had done ; after which they all remained profoundly silent for some time, which made me think that it was now my cue for speaking ; I therefore began to put some questions to the one nearest me, who made me no other reply than by putting his finger to his lips, which gave me to understand, that it was not permitted them to speak as yet.

I now began to be heartily tired of this taciturnity, as was likewise my man

Ambrose,

Ambrose, who to divert himself fell to singing a catch not the most modest that can be imagined; upon which an old licentiate, who seemed to be leader of the band, came up to him, and bid him to hold his tongue and not trouble their meditation: as ill placed as this affected devotion might appear to me, I could not nevertheless help approving a behaviour that I had not met with the like of in any of our churchmen before. We now kept our march in profound silence, till the sound of one of the bells in Evora, whither we were now drawing nigh, wrought a sudden change in the behaviour of my fellow-travellers, who to a man alighted from their horses, fell down on their knees, and began to repeat aloud the Ave Maria, for which the bell was then ringing: Ambrose and I would fain have continued our journey, and left our devout companions to themselves, but our cursed beasts could not be prevailed on to stir a step till the whole troop were in march again. And now the old curate gave them leave to speak, when in an instant they were as noisy and ludicrous as they had before been reserved and silent; as I rode pretty close to him, I asked him whither

ther he was conducting all these young people? To Evora, replied he, where they are to be ordained to-morrow morning. As we now drew near the city I had not time to ask him any more questions, only he told me that he was a country-curate of the neighbourhood, and having always had a great inclination as well as talents for the education and instruction of youth, the bishop of his diocess had given him permission to erect a little seminary in his parish, where he got together all the country lads he could meet with in the parishes round, and gave them instruction for six months, at the end of which time he carried them to the bishop, who immediately put them into orders. This curious account made me believe that either the curate must be a man of surprising talents, or that his pupils were great ignoramuses.

It was about nine at night when we got into Evora, and as it was too late for the good licentiate to carry his holy recruits to the great seminary, he made them alight at the first inn in the town, and tho' I had letters of recommendation from Castilmoro to several of the principal inhabitants of the place, yet curiosity made me resolve to take
up

up my quarters in another public-house, within a few doors of that where they had set up. As I was a little fatigued, I ordered my supper to be got ready immediately, and retired to my chamber soon afterwards, with an intention of going to bed; but calling to mind some orders that I had forgotten to give my servant, I came down stairs again, and went into the kitchen in search of him, where to my great astonishment I found two spits full of different kinds of game getting ready with all expedition; I could not help asking the landlord in a kind of surprise, whether he did not know that it was fast-day? Ah, very well surely, said he, and therefore made some difficulty about dressing these things, but a set of young clergymen here, for whom they are designed, have demonstrated to me very clearly that travellers are exempted from a rigorous observance of the rules of the church; and as they ought to understand these matters better than us you know, why I consented, and so here are the things getting ready for their supper. I was on the point of shewing him that he was in an error, when I saw three or four of my fellow-travellers enter the kitchen, who seemed

seemed a good deal surpris'd at meeting with me there : we seldom love to have those for witnesses of our real vices, that have been so of our pretended virtues. The fear of meeting with a brotherly reprimand made them hasten up to their apartments as soon as possible ; but not without ordering the landlord to send them up their supper with all possible speed. Seeing such great preparations, I had the curiosity to ask the landlord how many guests he expected ; twenty, said he, and what is better than all, is, that their superior not being with them, they intended to enjoy themselves thoroughly : the good man it seems not being able to find lodging sufficient for his whole troop, had left these to themselves, as being those whose conduct he could most rely on, and indeed they were the very persons who appeared the most devout at the recital of the rosary.

I withdrew to my own apartment, not to disturb the diversion that was going on, or rather not to be a witness to what would only have given me scandal ; but unluckily for me, they had ordered their supper to be served up in the very room adjoining to mine, and which was divided only by a thin deal partition, so
that

that I could hear every word they said. After having seated themselves they began their mysteries, by ordering in sixty bottles of the best wine the house could afford; viz. three bottles a-piece; upon which one of the company had the impiety to observe, that he was always particularly fond of the number in the Trinity. Supper was presently served up, and the conversation beginning to grow a little serious and less noisy, I, who had been heartily fatigued by the jade of a mule of Castilmoro's, was glad to lay hold of that opportunity to compose myself to rest.

In less than an hour's time however the wine beginning to operate on the brains of our young collegians, they fell a singing and roaring with all their might, and talking in the most loose and dissolute manner. From words they proceeded to actions, and one of them having given the company the slip, followed one of the maids that waited at table to the top of the stairs, where he laid hold of her and offered some indecencies, at which the wench being incensed, and desirous of getting rid of so troublesome a companion, began to cry out as loud as she could: the noise she
made

made wakened me out of my sleep ; upon which I jumped up, and laying hold of my sword ran out of the door, and got just time enough to the stair-case to save the poor girl from his brutal violence. The surprise he was struck with at seeing me, made him hastily quit his prize and run into the room where the rest of his companions were, where he imagined himself safe from my pursuit ; but I followed him close, not so much with any design of using him ill, as to prevail upon the rest of his companions to make less noise, and suffer me to get some sleep. They seeing me enter the room with my drawn sword in my hand, were frightened out of their wits, taking it for granted that I was come to put them to death ; and as most churchmen are naturally cowards, they ran for shelter into their several apartments, and left me master of the field of battle. Seeing them all gone, I locked the door upon them, and taking the key with me, I retired once more to my bed, where I passed the remainder of the night tolerably quiet.

C H A P. II.

Ranucio's reception by doctor Lanternez. A portrait of the clergy in Portugal. The house of the doctors of Evora. The admission of a young doctor. A very curious and interesting disputation: what passed on the occasion.

MY first business the next morning was to wait upon the doctor to whom Castilmoro had directed me, who was called Don Lanternez de Castilla. As soon as I had acquainted him with the person who recommended me to him, he loaded me with civilities, and insisted upon introducing me to his brother the doctor of laws, upon which he conducted me into his closet, where we found him in very agreeable company: it was a young abbess who had come to consult him about a law-suit that her community had engaged in against her. Finding him engaged, I was obliged to make my visit shorter than I should otherwise in decency have done;

done ; and after the first ceremonies were over I rose and took my leave, leaving him alone with the young abbess, in whose cause he seemed to interest himself very warmly ; and indeed it was no more than what she deserved ; for I do not remember to have seen a more accomplished beauty : in short, I was greatly struck with her charms, and could not forbear inquiring of Lanternez, what cause of complaint so amiable a person could have given to her community ? Good ! cause of complaint, cried Lanternez : why I find you know little about women, and what jealousy will make them do ! It is a dreadful grievance with that sex I can tell you to see another handsome ; the pretty abbess you saw is an example of this ; her nuns have not been able to bear with any patience the charms that robbed them of the homage of all the young nobility : in order to be revenged on her, they have resolved, if possible, to get her abbey taken from her ; and with that view have accused her of squandering the revenues of the society ; and tho' she has clearly proved the falsity of the allegation, yet they are resolved to continue to persecute her. However,

her beauty will not fail of making friends of her judges. If so, replied I, why have they not already decided the cause in her favour? Why, between you and I, answered Lanternez, the pretty abbess is in no great hurry to have the matter decided, as she is all this time dispensed from the confinement of a cloister, and the judges themselves, who make handsome pickings from both parties, do not care how long it lasts. The conversation then turned on other subjects, which kept us till near dinner-time, when I was for taking my leave, but the good doctor would by no means suffer me to go, and I did not take many intreaties: we had an elegant entertainment and plenty of good wine; we tossed off several bumpers to the healths of his good friends Castilmoro and my uncle Don Antonio, and should not have readily risen from table till we had offered ample libations to the god of wine; but Lanternez was obliged, as he told me, to be present at the admission of a young doctor who was to take his degree that afternoon, and to which he offered to introduce me. This was an offer I would by no means let slip, and accordingly accompanied him to the

the college where the ceremony was to be performed. It was a large and spacious house, of a plain but noble structure; the only fault I found in it was, that the person who had caused it to be built, had had the vanity to place his arms in every part of it even to the very gutters. The chapel is a master-piece of architecture, but the inside is by no means answerable to the magnificence of the front, being quite plain and with very few ornaments, and those the most common and ordinary: I could not help being surpris'd at this, and asked Lanternez the reason of it. There is a very natural one, replied he; all the pompous trappings that you see in our churches, are not placed there so much in honour of God, as to attract the eyes of the people, and especially the women, who are above all others fond of luxury and shew. It is for this reason, that the monks, who are always willing to draw as many female votaries about them as they can, are so very careful to keep their churches neat and handsome, and take all opportunities of making a display of the rich gifts they have received from the devotion or folly of their benefactors, which seldom fails of prompt-

ing the beholders to follow the examples set before their eyes: this artifice has succeeded but too well with the good fathers; as for us, who open our chapels only once a year for the people, we are content to worship God in spirit and in truth, without running into that luxury and extravagance, which tends rather to displease him than contribute to his glory. This observation of the doctor's appeared to me reasonable, and worthy of the good man and the christian. From the chapel we went into the library, which appeared to me to be a very fine one, but the books seemed to be covered with dust, which made me conclude that the doctors did not trouble this apartment very frequently.

From the library we descended into a large and very spacious hall, where we found about two hundred doctors assembled in their furred robes, which at my first entrance put me in mind of the great Jewish sanhedrim. The ceremony was already pretty far advanced, and had been opened by a thesis which had been maintained by the candidate, of which I had a copy put into my hands. It was dedicated to the only son of prince Albanus, and divided into four sections.

ons. The first was taken up with a detail of the charms and perfections of that monstrous prince, whom the candidate had erected into a god, that, according to him, all the world ought to bow down and worship under pain of everlasting damnation. The second division was equally interesting and convincing; it turned upon the immaculate conception, which new mystery he endeavoured to prove, by all the arguments in theology, to be as true and worthy of belief as any other in religion, and that St. Barnard and those popes who had opposed it at its first promulgation, had lived and died in heresy, and as such were infallibly damned; but what was more curious than all the rest was, that the good candidate pretended to demonstrate anatomically to all unbelievers, the manner in which this immaculate conception was brought about. The third section was employed in proving the new dogma of the possibility of a state of incorrupt nature. Here the young doctor undertook to demonstrate, that God might with all justice condemn a creature however innocent; adding, that those who died in original sin were not damn-

ned so much for that sin, as those they might have committed had they lived. The fourth and last section treated of humanity, and this appeared to me to be the young doctor's fort.

The oddity of this disputation made me regret not having been present at its beginning, as I should have been glad to have heard how the candidate would have answered the arguments that might have been brought against him, for he seemed to defend himself very well while I was present, which surprised me not a little, as some of them appeared pretty puzzling ; however, my surprise soon ceased upon being informed that the objections had been all communicated to him before hand. This, however, was not the case with some objections which were soon after brought against him by a Cordelier, who owed him a grudge on account of an old dispute subsisting between them. It seems the young doctor had formerly reproached the monk with his lazy life, and proved to him from authority, that the bread eaten by him and his fraternity did not belong to them but to the pope ; the monk to be revenged on him, now began to attack him on the pretended per-
fections

fections of prince Albanus's son ; and as the young doctor had not had any previous notice of this argument to be brought against him, he was unable to make any answer to the objections of his adversary, who followed his strokes so closely, that the president of the assembly found it necessary to interpose in person : the monk, however, in no wise daunted, reiterated his objections with such strength of argument, that the president himself had not a word left to say, but in a violent passion took off his cap and threw it at him ; and here I could not help admiring the great coolness and moderation of the monk, who was the only one of his fraternity that I had ever seen master of himself in a dispute of such importance ; but he, contented with the victory he had gained, forbore coming to blows with his adversary, which I was told had frequently been the case amongst them on the like occasions. However, this little rub did not prevent Don Carcaffio (for that was the name of the young doctor) from being admitted to his degree by the general voice, which could not fail of giving me a very high idea of the university of Evora.

C H A P. III.

Ranucio returns to Massilia. An encounter on the road. The story of Don Judas de Cenomanes.

I MADE a stay of some few days longer at Evora, in order to satisfy my curiosity with all that was worth beholding in that town; and where I found the women as great coquets, the men as great fops and blockheads, and the clergy and monks as ignorant and superstitious as at Lisbon; so that finding nothing in that place, but what I had every day met with in Lisbon, I took my leave of doctor Lanternez, after returning him thanks for all his civilities, and set out on my way for Massilia, where at my return I found the finishing hand had been put to the affair of our missionaries. They had been delivered over by the civil power into the hands of their superiors, who had demanded them with a promise of making them suffer the punishments due to their crimes. D. Castilmoro was so charmed

charmed with their meeting with such an happy deliverance, that he had caused Te Deum to be sung in his church by way of thanksgiving. As we were now no longer under any apprehension of his running mad on this account, my uncle and I returned to his house, where I staid some few days, after which I set out again for Lisbon.

It is a just remark, that the most singular adventures are generally met with upon a journey : I had two of so extraordinary and different a kind, that I am persuaded the reader will not be displeased at my giving them a place here. The first was in the person of a Spanish gentleman, who was riding gently along the road and singing to himself ; I was so pleased with his voice, that I stopt my mule some time to listen to him ; when he came up to me I told him I was going to Lisbon, where I should be glad to do him any little service in my power. Signor, said he, I take you at your word, but before I inform you of the want I am in of your assistance, give me leave to ask you, if I can safely trust you with a secret ? I made answer, that he might safely repose a confidence in me, and that I should remember what

he told me, only so far as was necessary to render him a service ; after this assurance the Castilian addressed me as follows :

You may imagine, perhaps, Sir, that you see in me only a common gentleman, but in that you are mistaken : in me you behold at once a married man, a monk, a priest, a grand-vicar, an official, and to sum up the whole, a comedian. I could not help smiling at this conclusion, and thought at first that the man had been mad, and fixed my eyes attentively on his to observe if possible any symptoms of that kind in them. You look at me, Sir, said he, and smile, as if you thought me out of my senses ; but I assure you I tell you nothing but what is strictly true, as I will presently convince you, if you will permit me to relate the circumstances of my life : it is a diversion that I am willing to give you, in order to make your journey appear less tedious to you.

D. Francesco de Cenomanes my father, continued the Spaniard, after having brought me up according to his own fancy, that is to say very badly, resolved to have me married as soon as possible, that he might not have the mortification

fication of seeing his race extinct, of which I was the only surviving male; he therefore got me a wife by that time I had attained my fifteenth year. You must doubtless know what a young person is capable of at those years; accordingly, I was so far from thinking how to fulfil the essential duties of the married state, that I thought of nothing but those which were of least account. Thrice had the good man the satisfaction to see his name and family rescued from oblivion during the three first years I led a married life; but he had all the pleasure to himself, for the uneasinesses inseparable from the state of wedlock began to get possession of me, and soon made me heartily weary of it! As I had been forced into it at an age when I was not the master of my own actions, I thought I might without scruple quit it when I pleased; accordingly, one fine morning I left my wife and children, and repaired incog. to the monastery of the Capucins of Seguença, who admitted me amongst them as a novice, and gave me the habit. The great distance I was at from home, and my extreme youth covered me from all suspicion. No one to have seen me would have taken
 me

me for the father of three children, and you may be sure I was careful to keep my own counsel ; after some time I was admitted to make my profession, which I did with great solemnity.

I had been led to take this step purely from idleness, and a dislike to the state of life my friends had made me embrace ; but I soon found I had fallen out of the frying-pan into the fire, as they say ; for the good fathers, perceiving the defects in my education, and finding a disposition in me for study, resolved to cultivate it. I in vain endeavoured to excuse myself by affecting stupidity ; the more of a dunce I appeared, the more proper they thought me for a great scholar of their order ; accordingly I was put to school, where, thanks to good discipline, I made so great a progress that at the end of three years I was found fit for receiving holy orders, with which I was invested at the age of twenty-two years, agreeable to a privilege granted to those fathers, founded probably on the supposition, that piety and knowledge come to maturity sooner with them than with the rest of mankind.

As they had raised me to the priesthood only with a view to make me serviceable

viceable to the convent, they immediately employed me in preaching. I held forth at first in the villages and little country towns, from thence I went into the market towns, and at length exhibited in the largest cities. Nature had endowed me with a good assurance and a surprising memory; with these talents I mounted the pulpits of the most celebrated preachers with as much boldness and unconcern, as if I had been accustomed to it all my life, and that my sermons were the most eloquent in the world. In short, my qualifications, whether real or imaginary, gained me so much reputation, that the bishop of the diocese sent for me to preach in his cathedral. My impudence standing me in the stead of merit, I made no hesitation to comply with his request, and made my appearance on that grand theatre, where I had the honour to please not only the canons, but, without vanity be it said, even the bishop himself, who not contented with hearing me in the pulpit was desirous of seeing whether I was as deep learnt in reality as I appeared to be by my discourses; and for that purpose assigned me an apartment in his palace, where I might be nearer at hand
for

for him to converse with me now-and-then. In the course of our conferences the worthy prelate was so delighted with me, that in order to bind me wholly to his service, he offered to make me one of his grand-vicars, which place however I would not accept till I had first obtained the permission of my superiors.

I acquitted myself so well to his liking in this my new employment, that he soon after bestowed that of official on me, which I accepted with so much the greater pleasure, as it was by far the most lucrative, notwithstanding my having made a vow of poverty : the benefactions and gratuities which I found annexed to the sacerdotal function, made such an impression on me, that I could not forbear fingering a little now-and-then to supply my own private pleasures. Increase of opportunities only served to increase my avarice, till at length, by overdoing it, I lost at once my place and my profits ; this happened as follows :

Among the friends that the place of grand-vicar had gained me, was a fat prior, who owed the whole of his fortune to me : this man having fallen dangerously ill, sent to acquaint me with the

the condition he was in, begging at the same time that I would come and see him ; I flew to him upon the first summons, and put on an appearance of such deep sorrow, that he himself could not forbear being affected with. He embraced me with the utmost tenderness, and as a proof of his gratitude for my friendship and the services I had done him, made me an offer of resigning his living in my favour. I would not hear a word of it at first, but seeing him preparing to draw up the deed, I yielded to his intreaties, promising him at the same time, that if heaven restored him to health, which I earnestly prayed for, I would instantly restore it to him again. Alas ! poor man, he did not give me the trouble, for he died a very few days afterwards. This sudden accident would in all probability have rendered my schemes abortive, had not I, from my perfect knowledge of churchmen, who are always attentive to the death of another, when there is a fat living in the case, resolved to keep the prior's death a secret till I could hear from Rome ; and by the help of some money well applied, I prevailed on the physician and servants of the deceased

to favour the deceit, and give it out that he was still alive.

But, alas! I might have spared all these precautions, for his death was already universally known, but I thought it a secret to every one but myself. I immediately took possession of the priory, after which I returned to my attendance on my good bishop, with whom I found that somebody had been tampering not much to my advantage, and fortune was now preparing to shew me a new turn of her wheel; for at my return I found that a cursed indultery, who knew as well as myself when the prior died, had obtained his living, and was gone to put himself in possession of it, when I had made myself the most sure of it. Nothing was left now but to battle for it; and as charity is not one of the most prevalent virtues with two people who are at variance with each other, this worthy gentleman published a memorial, in which he gave a detail of my life, with all its attendant circumstances: I had not a stock of impudence great enough to bear up against facts so authenticated, and therefore took the resolution to quit the kingdom while I was well, and retire into Portugal;

tugal ; and in a good hour I did it, for that very day an order was issued for apprehending me ; but my flight did not put a stop to further proceedings ; for the affair was carried on with such eagerness, that notwithstanding my being a monk, a priest, a grand-vicar, and what is more an official ; I was condemned to be hanged, which sentence was executed upon my effigies as my person was very luckily out of their reach. Thus, Sir, continued Cenomanes, thus finished my glorious career ; you may easily imagine the situation I was in after so dreadful a catastrophe. Nothing now remained of all my former greatness, and I had been inevitably ruined, but for that happy stock of assurance which was the last thing to forsake me.

As I had belonged to an order which placed its greatest glory in supplying its wants by begging or any other means that offered, I stuck close to my old occupation, and fell to exercising the employment of a parasite. I first began by frequenting the tables of wealthy citizens, where I kept my post for some time, but unhappily my having been a grand-vicar had made me a little too delicate,

delicate, so that I left them and went to the spruce Abbée's, whose way of living I knew to be somewhat better, and put on all the airs that I thought most likely to ingratiate me with them. Self-sufficiency, giddiness, debauchery, eternal prating, and empty noise, were qualifications that I knew so well how to copy from the great originals set before me, that I soon worked myself into the esteem and confidence of these gentlemen, insomuch that there was not an entertainment or a debauch in which I was not made of the party, and considered as the life of the whole; but the greatest part of my patrons dropping off daily, either in their healths or fortunes, I soon found that instead of gaining any thing by them, I was every day growing poorer and poorer.

I saw no appearance of extricating myself from this miserable situation, when chance threw in my way D. Gusman d'Oricalco, one of my countrymen: we were both of us not a little surprized at such an unexpected meeting, after having been above twelve years without seeing each other; we embraced very ardently, when D. Gusman, by way of renewing our acquaintance, took
me

me home to dinner with him : never did any thing happen more fortunately for me, I not having eat a morsel for two days ; when we were at table D. Gusman asked me a thousand questions, to which I answered only by monosyllables, being wholly intent upon satisfying the cravings of my appetite. After this necessary piece of employment was over, I found myself more at leisure to give and inquire after news, and began by asking after my wife and children. Your children, said he, are all three of them dead, and your dear wife thinking you so too, has married again, and has three more children. The match has been a very advantageous one to her, the man who married her being extremely rich, therefore I would advise you, continued he, to return home again, where in all probability you will find the means of gaining a much better situation than that in which I at present see you.

My friend Gusman would hardly have made me such a proposal, had he known the reasons that obliged me to quit the kingdom of Castile. But I soon informed him of them, not concealing the least circumstance of my life,

since

since my leaving my family. Upon my
 soul, my dear Cenomanes, said he,
 thy adventures would make an excellent
 romance; there is nothing wanting to
 make it complete, but putting in exe-
 cution a project that is just come into
 my head, which I am persuaded will
 not appear despicable to you: have you
 preserved that fine voice you had when
 I saw you last? Upon this I began to
 sing by way of answer to his question, in
 which I acquitted myself intirely to his
 satisfaction. Good God! cried he, is it
 possible that with such a talent you
 should be reduced to the situation I now
 behold you in? How long ago would I
 have extricated you from it, had I but
 been happy enough to have met with
 you: however it is not yet too late, and
 if you will engage in my company, de-
 pend upon it you shall have no reason to
 repent. This speech and the richness of
 his dress made me imagine that he was
 in the army, and wanted to enlist me for
 the service; I intimated as much to
 him, he laughed very heartily at my
 mistake, and after telling me that he
 was manager to the country opera, the
 performers of which were just arrived in
 town,

town, he repeated his proposal of my entering into the company.

Any means of living are acceptable when one is destitute of all others: this was exactly my case; so that I made no hesitation to accept his offer, and was accordingly inrolled in the company. From a capuchin you now see me become a comedian. A few good lessons in the theory of music soon put me in a capacity of playing some of the underparts, from whence I quickly succeeded to the principal ones. The excellence of my voice, and my pleasing manner of declamation, in which I retained nothing of the monkish whine, soon acquired me as many admirers as hearers. In short, I was very well pleased with my new profession, in which I should probably have continued the remainder of my days, had not our manager thought proper one fine morning to decamp with our strong box. This untoward accident having made it impossible for the company to support themselves any longer, we were obliged to separate, and every one take his chance. As for me I resolved for Lisbon, where I am in hopes that the royal academy of music will do me the justice and favour to receive me
amongst

amongst them. You, Sir, are without doubt acquainted with some of those gentlemen, and it may be greatly in your power to assist me if you would interest yourself in my behalf.

I did not know which to admire most in Cenomanes; the oddity of his adventure, or the imprudence of his conduct. Is it possible, thought I to myself while he was speaking, that a man who does not appear to be a fool, should be so unwise as to trust a stranger with such a secret as would put it in his power to hang him the next hour? But heaven knows such a thought was far from my mind; on the contrary I found myself inclinable to do him all the service in my power; but I could by no means comply with his last demand: I represented to him how unworthy the profession he had lately embraced was to one of his character or function. Indeed, replied I, if you was to desire me to get you admitted into the patriarch's band, I might possibly use my interest for you, as being an employ more befitting you. The mouth of a priest should be dedicated wholly to the praises of God; whereas you would continue to prophane your's by singing those of the devil.

I would

I would have continued, but that I found my fellow-traveller was by no means pleased with this piece of morality ; so true is it that devotion frequently meets with the greatest enemies in those who have, for their whole lives, been employed in preaching it to others.

C H A P. IV.

Sequel of the story of Don Cenomanes. Ranucio has another encounter.

CENOMANES finding that I did not enter so warmly into his interests as he had flattered himself I should, began to be heartily vexed that he intrusted me with the knowledge of his adventures, and earnestly begged of me that I would not speak of them to any one, especially at Lisbon, where the inquisition would assuredly lay hold of him if ever they came to their ears. I gave him my promise of secrecy, and this made us pretty good friends during the rest of the journey, which by this time grew very near to a conclusion, for
we

we were already within sight of Silveyra, where I had resolved to drop my companion; but a fresh encounter saved me the trouble of taking my leave of him.

We were now within less than a mile of the town, when we found ourselves on a sudden accosted in the road by a large body of sbirri, who were conveying one they had in custody to prison; their great number prevented me at first from seeing what sort of a person it was. As for Cenomanes, he was struck with a violent panic at the first sight of such a numerous body of soldiers, and thinking no less than that they were come in pursuit of him, he set spurs to his horse and rode away as if they had been all at his heels. As the part of the road where I then happened to be was very narrow, I was obliged to wait till the whole troop went by me. By their number I imagined no less than that they were guarding a large gang of robbers that had for some time past infested the country, and after which a diligent search had been long made to no purpose; but what was my surprize, when in the room of those wretches I thought to behold, I saw only a poor nun mounted
on

on a wretched mule, and surrounded by this numerous troop ; her veil being drawn prevented me from seeing her face ; but the posture she was in, and the sighs that continually came from her, made me conceive that she must be in great distress.

While I was making some reflections on a sight that had so moved my compassion, I discerned in the midst of the soldiery a man whom I knew to be one Vulpez de Tapino, a commissary of the holy office, and one who would have been an honest man enough, but for his immoderate love of gain, which put him upon sacrificing every thing to the view of making his fortune, not respecting honesty itself. As I had seen him once before at a person's house of my acquaintance, it was enough to determine me to accost him, and inquire of him whither he was bound ? I am going to Silveyra, Signor, replied he, and if I am not mistaken you are going thither too by the road I met you in ; if so I should be glad of the favour of your company. I was already too much interested in the fate of his unhappy prisoner, to let slip so fine an opportunity of informing myself concerning her.

However I could get nothing more out of the commissary during the time we rode together, than that it was a wicked huffy of a nun, whom he had orders to carry to a certain convent in Lisbon till the inquisition could call her to her trial.

When we got to Silveyra, after having rested ourselves awhile, I begged the favour of him to let me have a sight of his prisoner, which he very complaisantly granted me, not thinking a visit of this nature would be attended with any consequences, and conducted me into the room where she was. At my entrance I found the poor creature so overcome with the fatigue and ill usage she had undergone, that she had not strength enough left to rise and return my salute; but what surprized me most was, that she made no manner of answer to the compliment of condolance I made her on her situation. I attributed this at first to the great dejection of her spirits, and continued to address her in Portuguese, to which she made no other answer than by uttering a few words in Italian, which gave me to understand that she was a stranger to our language; upon which, as I was perfectly master
of

of her's, I repeated in Italian what I had before said to her in Portuguese. She seemed deeply sensible of my expressions of concern, and replied to them in a manner that affected me not a little. I made her offers of service, and begged her to let me know in what I could be useful to her. Alas! Sir, replied she, with a deep sigh, why should you interest yourself in my misfortunes, or of what assistance can you be to a wretched maiden, who has languished out seven long years in the most dreadful captivity, from which she has been lately released, only in order to suffer, if possible, more cruel torments? Leave me to endure my fate alone, Sir, nor by a too rash act of generosity and humanity, incur the danger of sharing the same miseries; you know not in whose hands I am, and that it is looked upon as an unpardonable crime, even to intercede for the unhappy wretches that are dragging to their tribunal. I am perfectly well acquainted, Madam, answered I, with all their acts of injustice and oppression; but you are not as yet before them, and Providence may possibly raise means for delivering you from your persecutors; let me only request of you to inform me

of the nature of your misfortunes, and I will not leave any possible means untried for rescuing you from the deplorable situation in which I now behold you. If nothing more is required towards that, Sir, said she, than to acquaint you with the history of my life, it will be an easy matter for me to give you that satisfaction ; but prepare yourself to hear things which will strike you with the greater horror, as they were acted against me by people who, of all others, you would think the least capable of such villainy and barbarity.

C H A P. V.

The story of Angelica, and the horrid persecutions she underwent.

„ I AM by birth, an Italian, as you may perceive by my tongue ; with which, Sir, you seem well acquainted : I was born at Bologna, of parents who were of no small distinction in the state, and my name is Angelica Virtuosi : tho' my birth entitled me to hold

hold a considerable rank in life, which indeed was the wish of my parents, yet the inclination I found in myself to a life of religious retirement, outweighed all other considerations, and at the age of twenty years, I received the veil from the hands of our archbishop. Fatal æra! from which I may date all the misfortunes of my life. What, Madam, said I, interrupting her with some warmth, do you then repent of having embraced that happy state? God forbid, Sir, replied the fair Angelica; on the contrary, my only comfort amidst the evils I have endured, is, that I have not merited them by any infidelity, either in thought or deed, to the heavenly spouse to whom I gave my heart and all its faculties, at the foot of his holy altar: but could it ever have been supposed that the very person who received that sacred oath from me, should be the first to urge me to a violation of it? and yet so it happened. Forgive me, Sir, if in what I am about to say, I should sometimes appear wanting in that respect and veneration I owe our holy church, by revealing the scandalous behaviour of her ministers, but besides that she is in no case answerable for the faults of her

children; it is a testimony I owe to truth and my own innocence: yes, Sir, the very man who received my vows, was the first who sought to make me break them, as I shall now proceed to relate to you.

As nature had given me some little share of beauty, the prelate was so struck with it during his performing the ceremony of my admission, that he instantly conceived a violent passion for me, which he was not long without declaring, for the very next day, under pretence of making me a spiritual visit, he entertained me all the time with the shameless avowal of his love; imagine, Sir, what must have been my astonishment at hearing such language from the mouth of an archbishop; I was struck with such horror at it, that I instantly flew from his presence to avoid treating him in a manner unbecoming the respect due to the sacred character he bore. However, the abruptness of my behaviour did not prevent him from renewing his visit a few days afterwards. I at first refused to come into his company, but he prevailed with the superior to join her intreaties, finding his own ineffectual; and I was at length prevailed

prevailed upon, in the persuasion that he would not be indiscreet enough to discover his wicked passion before a third person ; but alas, how was I mistaken in him ! I no sooner made my appearance than his lascivious eyes, which were eternally fixed on mine, as if he could never satisfy himself enough with looking at me, proved but too plainly that my refusal had only served to inflame his wicked desires instead of damping them. In short, he desired the superior in my hearing, to procure him more frequent opportunities of seeing and conversing with me, with which she readily complied, commanding me always to give my attendance whenever his grace should think fit to send for me, and this in his presence.

I had my reasons for not giving her an absolute refusal at that time ; but upon the next visit the archbishop made to me, I would by no means go near him. He still continued his visits and messages, and I as constantly avoided his company ; at length, tired out with my obstinate refusal, he fell upon a method only worthy of an incensed churchman, which was to accuse me of a pretended new kind of heresy ; and sending for

my superior, charged her to have a strict eye upon me, that I should not infect the rest of the society with my anti-christian principles, and to that purpose desired her to confine me closely to my cell for some time; after which, if they did not perceive a change, other measures should be taken.

Credulity has been always a principal fault in our sex, and although the superior had never perceived any thing, either in my behaviour or discourse, that could give her the least reason to suspect me guilty of what was laid to my charge, yet the blind deference she paid to the prelate made her readily comply with his orders, and I was committed close prisoner to my cell for a fortnight, at the end of which time the superior again laid her injunctions on me to allow of the prelate's visits; but as I still continued obstinate in my refusal, I was ordered to be shut up in the prison belonging to the monastery, and to receive the discipline twice a day. This treatment I suffered patiently for some time, but finding that my sufferings were not likely to have any mitigation, I ventured to ask the superior one day what I had been guilty of to deserve

serve this treatment? Ah, you know but too well, idle and perverse girl as you are, cried she; and if you was not completely hardened in wickedness you would have submitted, and would own your fault long before this. You imagined, I suppose, to have drawn away the rest of the society; and for what I know you might have succeeded in your wicked design, had not his grace had the goodness to give me notice of it, and——What, Madam, said I, is it by the archbishop's orders that I suffer this treatment? Yes, indeed, is it, replied she; and you are much indebted to him for his goodness that he did not immediately give you up to the holy inquisition to be burnt alive, as you deserve. I have great obligations to him truly, said I; but pray, Madam, be so good to inform his grace from me, that if he continues to torment me in this manner, I may possibly acquaint the inquisition with some circumstances which may draw the same punishment upon him with which he is pleased to threaten me.

My answer was soon carried to the archbishop, who seeing me thus obstinately bent against him, in an instant

found his love converted into fury, and vowed to prevent his own ruin by bringing about mine ; and to succeed the better in this design, he sent to Rome for a permission to remove me into another house of our order at Badajox.

The bishop of that place, who had been pitched upon by him of Bologna to be the minister of his vengeance, was one of those ignorant people, who from a fond and mistaken zeal are ever ready to commit the most crying injustice. As soon as I arrived in his territories he was for sending me directly to the inquisition, but after a little reflection thought it would be best to write to his brother of Bologna, to know his will upon the subject : the archbishop fearing that if I was brought before the inquisition, I might reveal some things which he would rather have kept secret, wrote back to him desiring him by no means to think of sending me thither, but that he was at full liberty to make me suffer in the convent the usual punishments inflicted on criminals like myself by that tribunal. His orders were strictly obeyed, and I was thrown into the prison of the monastery, where I lay for six months ; at the end of which
time,

time I was taken out to appear before the bishop, who asked me, if I was a little come to myself, and would resolve to abjure my heretical opinions? You may easily imagine how much I was astonished at such a question. I replied, that I had never entertained a thought contradictory to the established tenets of our holy church; his lordship did not deign to make me any answer to this, but ordered me back again to my dungeon for six months more, with an order to retrench a certain part of my food every week, as the only means to cure me speedily and effectually of my obstinacy; for it is not just, added he, that a bad sheep should be as well fed as the rest of the flock that are sound.

His orders were so punctually complied with, that before the term of my imprisonment was expired, my allowance was not nearly sufficient to nourish me. When I was again brought into the bishop's presence, who thought that by this time I should be sufficiently humbled, he read me a long sermon upon the miserable consequences of persisting in heresies, and made the application to me. If it is being guilty of heresies, my lord, replied I, for a
maiden

maiden of Christ's holy church to refuse complying with the criminal commands and desires of her bishop, I own myself guilty, but for any other heresy——Ah! ah! cried the prelate, interrupting me, I find you have all the exact marks of a real heretic; first, a contempt for the priesthood; secondly, wicked and false accusations in order to revile them; thirdly and lastly, an obstinate perseverance in these falsehoods: now after so many convincing proofs of heresy, do you think it is possible for me to acquit you? No, no, you stand confessed an heretic, and as such I condemn you to four years imprisonment, with bread and water only for your sustenance, and to receive the discipline thrice every day.

In short, Sir, I shall not take up your time by enumerating the variety of sufferings I underwent for near six years, which were more than sufficient to have put an end to the life of the strongest man, had it not pleased God for his own wise ends to enable me to bear up against them in such a manner that my persecutors were almost grown weary of tormenting me, when a new and unexpected one arose. Don Lorenzo de
Torrez,

Torrez, the grand inquisitor of Portugal, having been at Rome, on some business relating to his tribunal, in his way home passed thro' Badajox, where he was received with extraordinary favours by the bishop, who prevailed with him to make a stay of a few days with him, during which they had frequent conversations together on the pretended heresies of the times, in which they took no small pleasure to recount the number of persons they had persecuted for God's sake. The good bishop reckoned up five hundred that he had imprisoned for his share; but the inquisitor proved that he had sent above a thousand to the stake, tho' he had been not above ten years in his office. These glorious exploits drew him many compliments from the bishop, who greatly extolled his piety and religious zeal, and took occasion to make mention of my affair to him. What, said the inquisitor, with an air of surprize, have you had her so long time under hand, and have not been able to reduce her to reason yet? God's grace! if I had had the management of such an affair, I would not have given her above as many days to make her abjuration in,

or

or else—to the stake. The bishop, who was grown heartily weary of persecuting me himself, asked the inquisitor if he would take charge of my conversion, which he readily agreed to; but as he could exercise no jurisdiction in Spain, it was resolved between them that I should be removed into Portugal; and it was in consequence of this resolution that I was put into the hands of the soldiers with whom you met me, and who have made me suffer during the whole journey all sorts of ill treatment, yet doubtless nothing in comparison of what are further reserved for me; but I trust that the Almighty will afford me a sufficient portion of his grace to support them with fortitude, and to lay down my life sooner than fail in the fidelity I have vowed to him."

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

Conclusion of Angelica's story. The manner in which she is delivered by Ranucio.

ANGELICA had just finished the story of her misfortunes, when Don Vulpez came into the room where we were ; he was surpris'd at my staying so long with a person whom he thought I could not have any concern for ; but in this he was greatly mistaken ; for no one ever felt a more sincere compassion for another than I did for this unfortunate maiden. Her misfortunes had touched my heart, and I ardently wished to be the instrument of delivering her out of the hands of her persecutors. While I was deliberating on the means, heaven inspir'd me with an expedient that had frequently succeeded in cases nearly resembling this, and I immediately resolv'd to put it into execution, after having desired Angelica to take courage. I desired Don Vulpez to permit us to sup all three together ;
which,

which, after some little intreaties, he granted. I then slipped out to give some orders to my man, put a dozen ducats into the landlord's hands to regale the soldiers, and returned back to table with the commissary and his lovely captive. Ambrose waited upon us, to whose care I recommended Don Vulpez, whom I found to be naturally fond of drinking.

The vices of men are sometimes of use, and are made the means by God of answering many wise and religious purposes, as happened in this case. The healths went round briskly, and among the rest Don Vulpez drank to his father's; at which Angelica cried out on a sudden, what do I hear? Can it be that either of you gentlemen are acquainted with Don Pedro de Aletés? The commissary, who understood as little of Italian as the greatest part of our priests do of Latin, could make nothing of this exclamation, but I was charmed with it; and answered, Yes, Madam, I know Don Pedro de Aletés, and know him as a son ought to know a father; and if I can—Ah! Signor, cried she, I am no longer surpris'd at your interesting yourself so warmly in my misfortunes;
it

It is nature speaks in you, and heaven has sent me a near relation to be my comforter : yes, Sir, in me you behold the unhappy daughter of Leonora de Aletés, your aunt ; how happy am I to have met with a person who so truly inherits the virtues of his family ! but alas, in what a deplorable situation do you find me, who am your relation ! but let us take courage ; God, who never abandons those who are his, has doubtless permitted you to meet with me, that by your means I might be delivered from my enemies ; methinks I feel an enlivening hope that tells me I shall yet see their malice disappointed.

The presence of the commissary prevented my giving a loose to my transports of joy at finding so virtuous a relation. Ambrose, who knew that I wanted nothing so much as to be rid of Don Vulpez, plied him close with bumpers, but the old sinner had been so enured to the toils of wine, that they had not the least effect upon him ; at length we were forced to have recourse to some sleepy drugs, which effectually did the business, and laid him fast. I embraced the lucky moment to put my project in execution, and turning to Angelica, My
dearest

dearest cousin, said I, I have a number of things to say to you, but time is precious, and your situation too urgent to permit us a long conversation : you see your Argus is lulled asleep, the guards are employed elsewhere, here is a faithful fellow on whom I can depend, he will conduct you in my name to my relations ; every thing now appears favourable for us, come in then with me, and supply yourself out of this closet, with what will effectually baffle the vigilance of your keepers.

Angelica, who did not want for penetration, presently perceived that she was to put on a disguise, to which her nice conscientiousness at first made some objections, which however I soon overruled by representing to her her pressing situation, with other arguments which naturally occurred on this occasion ; accordingly we made an exchange of habits, and while she was retired into the closet to put on her new dress, I sat down to write a line to Don Poketos, my quondam tutor, recommending Angelica strongly to his protection ; nor could I have made choice of a fitter person : the persecutions he himself had undergone, during a long and painful mission,

had

had given him a sympathy for all those who suffered from the effects of bigotry and a blind zeal.

I had but just finished my letter when Angelica returned into the room. My cloaths had so completely disguised her, that had I not been acquainted with the scheme, I should never have recollected her; her's had the same effect on me, for the natural freshness of my complexion, and the almost total want of a beard, concurred to favour the deceit. I gave her the letter I had written, and after exhorting her to make use of all her resolution, I embraced her, and committed her to the care of the faithful Ambrose, and looking out of the window, had the satisfaction to see them pass unmolested thro' the guard, and ride clear off. Seeing them thus happily out of danger, I began now to think of extricating myself; and accordingly went into the closet in order to take a suit of cloaths out of my portmanteau, but ill fortune would have it that at that very instant Don Vulpez awakened from his trance. Surprised at not seeing me in the room (tho' I stood before his eyes) he called for me several times, but I took special care not to
open

open my lips. One of the guards running in upon hearing his voice, told him that I was gone away. Is he so, cried Don Vulpez, he must certainly then have had some very urgent business, or he would never have gone away thus abruptly, without taking his leave of me. However I'll go to bed; here, look to your prisoner, and hold yourselves in readiness to set out early in the morning. So saying he withdrew, and the guards double locked me into the room, leaving me to my private meditations.

This unlucky accident quite disconcerted my schemes, and I began to perceive all the danger I was exposed to, nevertheless I found no inclination in myself to repent of what I had done for Angelica's deliverance; and without giving way to useless regret, or melancholy reflections, I resolved to put my whole trust in God, whom I was persuaded would not permit me to suffer for so good a cause. In this happy disposition I retired to rest, and the next morning when my guards came to call me, got on horseback, and about nine o'clock arrived in the midst of my escort about a mile distant from Lisbon.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

Ranucio is confined in a nunnery by the orders of the inquisitor. His treatment there. The lives and manners of the Portuguese nuns.

WE were now, as I said in the foregoing chapter, within a short mile of Lisbon, and I imagined we were to enter that city in the same order that we had observed in our journey from Silveyra; but the commissary ordered us to halt for a few minutes till he had sent for a litter, into which I was put; and then dismissing all the soldiers, excepting twelve, which he kept by way of retinue, we proceeded for Lisbon, where we soon arrived; and I was immediately conducted to the convent, which was to be the place of my confinement; and Don Vulpez, after having shewn the grand inquisitor's orders, delivered me up in form to the charge of the lady abbess, and then, according to the old proverb, the wolf was shut up in the sheepfold.

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As soon as D. Vulpez was gone, the first thing the abbess did was to read to me the dreadful orders which had been just delivered to her ; by which I was to be confined in the prison of the convent, without any other sustenance than bread and water, and with two disciplines before each meal. I gave myself over for lost when I heard the last article, for reasons that may easily be conceived. I instantly threw myself at the abbess' feet, which I bathed with my tears, and speaking in as effeminate a tone as I could assume, and which I kept up during my whole stay in the convent, I begged her by all that was soft and tender to omit the disciplines.

Happily for me the person I had to deal with was not above five-and-twenty years of age, and was not one of those imperious women who delight in making every one under them feel the whole weight of their authority by rigorously straining their orders: she, good lady, on the contrary, compassionated my sufferings, and promised to render my situation more comfortable than it had yet been, provided I would be tractable and obedient to herself and the grand inquisitor. In the circumstances

stances I was then under, I should readily have promised impossibilities themselves to get clear of the dilemma I had brought myself into; accordingly I feigned so much penitence, and represented my resolution of being subject in all things to her will and directions, and this in so pathetic a manner, that I soon perceived she was greatly affected, which I did not so much attribute to the power of my own eloquence, as to the effects of a certain warm sympathy which I thought I had inspired her with, and I was more confirmed in this when, raising my eyes up to her's, I found she was bathed in tears: how extraordinary a thing was this, that nature should work so powerfully in my favour with her, notwithstanding my disguise. In a word, she raised me from the ground, and embracing me tenderly, promised me her protection. I can never believe, said she, that a person such as you appear to me can possibly have been guilty of what is laid to your charge; I rather look upon you to be greatly injured, and therefore shall do every thing in my power to soften your confinement. Henceforward you shall have no other prison than my apartment, no other jailor

jailor than myself ; as to the inquisitor, be under no apprehension about him, his long absence has brought about many affairs upon his hands, which he must finish before he can have leisure to think of you ; and for our nuns here, I shall effectually provide against any little tittle-tattle of theirs, by making you pass for my sister, which will readily account for the intimate connection between us.

So many and such undeserved instances of kindness transported me in an instant from the deepest melancholy to an excess of joy, which was indeed so great, that it hurried me away from myself, and I was on the point of throwing my arms round the abbess' neck, to give her the warmest testimonies of my gratitude, but recollecting myself instantly, I was contented with taking her hand, which I kissed a thousand and a thousand times.

I was now introduced to the society, as the abbess' sister, in consequence of which I had to receive and return the compliments of the whole sisterhood, and acquitted myself extremely well in my new character ; but what a temptation was it for a young fellow to see
such

such a number of beautiful creatures asking leave to salute him! however I had a sufficient bridle to keep me within due bounds, which was the fear of being discovered.

The agreeable life I led, and the company of the young abbess, afforded me the highest pleasure; she had wit and beauty, joined to a very agreeable conversation, and besides all this, I could plainly perceive that I had (perhaps unknown to herself) made a deep impression on her heart. But as she was much oftener at the grate than in her own apartment, I necessarily found some part of my time lie heavy upon my hands for want of employment; this being observed by one of the abbess' companions, she very obligingly undertook to supply me with the means of employing my idle moments, and brought me a work-basket full of all the necessary implements and utensils for knitting, sowing, knotting, &c. I could not help smiling when these little knick-knacks were brought to me of which I could not possibly make any use, and excused myself as well as I could on the short time I had to stay

among them, and the little inclination I had to my needle.

This answer made them imagine that I had a dislike to their convent; and indeed the continual apprehension I was under of being sent for by the inquisitor, and the impossibility I saw of making my escape, while I was never suffered to be out of the sight of the abbess, or one of her companions, had given me an air of thoughtfulness which it was impossible to disguise. In order to be a little more at liberty, I took the opportunity one day to ask the abbess' permission to pay a visit to the nuns of her community. I will grant you this with all my heart, replied the abbess, provided you will give me your promise to make a prudent use of this indulgence, and always return to me again; not that I shall be jealous of any little friendships you may make amongst them, but all my nuns have not a heart so tender and sincere as mine; if you should open yourself to them, depend upon it they will conspire your ruin, was it only to give me vexation; for it is a rule with them to do every thing in their power to disoblige me, accordingly

in return I am not wanting on every occasion to serve them in their own coin.

I soon found that the abbesses had told me no more than the truth; for I had hardly made my appearance amongst them, than they all began to murmur at her, for having, as they called it, monopolized my person to herself; every one gave it her own particular turn, and all in general concurred, to look upon it as a great slight offered to the community, and which ought to be properly resented. The storm was at first likely to fall upon me; but I soon found that I had a superior party in my favour, accordingly I thought I had nothing to do, but use my endeavours to make them once more friends with their abbesses; for which I imagined she would not be much displeased with me.

With this charitable view I made it my business to pay them each a separate visit, and was particularly observant to those whom I found to be the most inveterate against her, which were by far the greatest number. When I came to inform myself of the reasons that occasioned this discontent and murmuring, I found, to the great scandal of religion, that their chief cause of com-

plaint against her, was for having put a stop to certain gallantries which had passed in her convent, and had already given it but a very indifferent character in the world. The nuns, in their own justification, alledged that they did no more than what their abbess herself set them the example of every day of her life. Had they known me for the person I really was, they would have talked in a very different manner; they moreover complained, that by being their superior, she thought she had a right to make them do as she pleased, and to be subject herself to no restraint. Indeed this was very nearly the good abbess' sentiments, and as she in general acted pretty well up to them, this had given occasion to all the animosities and heart-burnings that were in her convent.

She had this consideration however to comfort her, that they hated one another as heartily as they could possibly do her. This mutual dislike frequently gave rise to private enmities, which were carried to the greatest lengths: sometimes, as the mind of woman is naturally variable, one or other of them would make their peace with the abbess,
and

and then that was sufficient to set all the rest against them; another grand source of discontent was the violent itch for gallantry which still prevailed amongst them, in spite of the reformation that had been lately attempted on that head; this never failed to set them together by the ears, as often as it came on the carpet. Those who received the most frequent visits from the gentlemen on account of their superior attractions, were sure of becoming the general objects of hatred and envy with the others, who would revenge themselves by fly inuendo's, smart raillery, reproaches, abuse, and every ridiculous word or action that jealous women are capable of committing. In short, this spirit of hatred and envy prevailed amongst them even to the most decrepid and old, whom I have frequently seen tearing one another's cloaths off their backs about their beauty and past conquests. Others again were so attached to this or that particular confessor, that they could bear no contradiction on that head, and would frequently from words proceed to blows. In short, so great was the disorder and confusion that prevailed in this community, that out of

an hundred and fifty nuns, of which it consisted, there were hardly six of them that lived in good terms with each other; and, what is still more strange, I was assured by many of them who had passed almost their whole lives in different communities, that it was the same thing in all of them. A fine example this for those girls who find in themselves an inclination to a religious life!

C H A P. VIII. and LAST,

Which concludes the adventures of
Don Ranucio.

HAD I not been induced by the most pressing motives, to endeavour to extricate myself from the dilemma into which my over great charity had plunged me, the spirit of confusion and contradiction that reigned throughout this house would have made me desirous to quit it as soon as possible; accordingly my whole thoughts were employed about the means of accomplishing it, when luckily the abbess, who suspected
nothing

nothing of my real intention herself, furnished me with an opportunity, and that in the following manner: it was her constant custom to go twice a year into the country, to drink the waters, and take the air; a custom which she had entered into, not so much from any real need she stood in of them, as from a certain air of gaiety, which would not permit her to live in constant health, like a common citizen's wife; and notwithstanding the ruddy bloom of her complexion constantly gave her the lie, she was always complaining of her bad state of health; and to give this the greater air of truth, she retained a physician, an apothecary, and a surgeon, who were very assiduous in their honorary visits. Under the favour of these, and an imaginary malady, she got herself excused from the observance of the duties of her office, and the strict rules by which the rest of the community were governed; and what was still more agreeable, it procured her the liberty of rambling up and down the country as she pleased, twice a year at least.

The time for her autumnal expedition was now approaching, and she waited

only for a return of good weather to set out on her jaunt, when the sister who used to be her companion in these excursions, was taken suddenly and dangerously ill ; upon which she made choice of me to supply her place ; and accordingly, to my no small satisfaction, gave me notice of her intention, with orders to hold myself in readiness against the next day ; but while I was making the necessary preparations for obeying this pleasing mandate, she received a letter from the grand inquisitor, inquiring after her prisoner, and ordering me to be brought before him the next day, to undergo my first examination. A thunder-stroke would not have confounded me half so much as this unlucky letter ; the abbess soon perceived my trouble, and endeavoured to encourage me to the utmost of her power. Fear nothing, my sweet Angelica, said she to me, think not that I have taken you under my protection only to abandon you at the very time that you stand most in need of it ; my treatment of you may alone be sufficient to ward off such apprehensions ; cease then these vain alarms, the examination you seem so much to dread, is no other than mere matter

matter of form ; and you have nothing more to do than satisfy the grand inquisitor of your being truly orthodox, and the affair is over.

I returned the good abbess a thousand thanks for the many favours she had shewn me; requesting her, at the same time, to continue them towards me; but I could not help being terribly frightened notwithstanding her fine speeches: I had many causes of inquietude that she never dream'd of, and the thoughts of the grand inquisitor's discovering me thro' my disguise, gave me more concern than all the heresies in the world put together. If nature, thought I, has been almost powerful enough to betray me to the abbess, notwithstanding my disguise, and every other precaution that could be taken, what may I not expect from the discerning eyes of a rigid judge, and one accustomed to penetrate into the profoundest secrets? In short I saw but one way of getting out of this ticklish situation, and even that was rendered in a manner impracticable by the vigilance of the abbess, who never suffered me out of her sight all day, and at night made me be locked up in one of her own apartments.

Seeing me still continue uneasy and melancholy, she reproved me for giving way to such fears, after the assurances she had so lately made me. Do you imagine, said she, that if I thought you ran the least risk, the friendship and regard I have for you would not put me upon some methods of taking you out of the inquisitor's hands? Cease then, I say, once more, my dearest Angelica, to torment yourself with such idle fears, or I shall begin to suspect that you are in reality guilty of the crimes which are laid to your charge. It is for the guilty alone to start at the thoughts of encountering justice, and I can never be brought to entertain the smallest thought of that kind against you. You do me great justice, Madam, replied I, but then the tribunal before which I am to appear, is of so dreadful a nature, that it might make even innocence itself tremble; how then can I help being terrified at——What pains you are at to make yourself miserable, replied the abbess, and how wretchedly are you overseen in relation to what passes here. You will soon cease to be thus alarmed, when I shall tell you that this terrible judge is, of all my votaries,

votaries, the one who pays the blindest submission to my will. This is so well known a circumstance, that I persuaded myself, that my nuns had already acquainted you with it. I leave you then to judge, if, with my recommendation, you have any thing to fear from that quarter.

This piece of news, which the abbess thought so comfortable for me, only served to redouble my apprehensions. I now found that I had to do not only with an inflexible judge, but with a doating jealous lover; who, if he once should happen to discover me, would, if possible, make me suffer ten thousand deaths. This dreadful thought made me shudder from head to foot; the abbess, who was ignorant of the true motives of my uneasiness, did her utmost to dissipate it; but seeing all her endeavours ineffectual, she proposed to me to take a walk with her in the garden, in order to amuse me. I obeyed thro' complaisance, but we had not taken above a turn or two together, when word was brought her that the count of Azanada was inquiring for her, upon which she left me alone to repair to the grate, where that noble-
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man expected her, and I, glad to get rid of her company, continued my walk.

I was so buried in thought, that without knowing whither I was going, I wandered till I got into that part of the garden which was set apart for the use of the boarders to divert themselves in : one of these children seeing me walking in that place, which was something unufal, and thinking to get some sweetmeats from me, came running up to make me her compliments, but what was my surprise and confusion when I knew her to be my sister, who had been placed there as a boarder since my having left Lisbon. The child was overjoyed at seeing me, and began to ask me a thousand little inconvenient questions about the reason of my dress, and how I came thither ; all which were so many daggers to me : Lord bless me ! said she, how could mamma serve us so ? she always told us you was gone into the country, and here you have been a nun all the while in this place ; she would have gone on with her little babble, if I had not made her a sign to be silent, and taking her on one side for fear we should be seen together, charged

charged her, on pain of being severely disciplined, not to take the least notice of having seen me; and then filling her pockets with some dried sweetmeats, which I always carried about me, sent her back to her companions.

After an adventure of this kind, which could not long remain a secret, I found there was nothing left for me but a speedy flight; the fear of being discovered and seized, made me resolve not to return back to the house, and not thinking myself sufficiently safe in that part of the garden where I then was, I concealed myself in a little thicket at the further end of it, where I passed the whole afternoon in the greatest anxiety imaginable, praying heaven to give me an happy deliverance. At length night came, which I suffered to be well advanced before I ventured from my hiding-place, and then went to that part of the garden where I knew the walls were the lowest, and by the help of an espalier, which formed a kind of ladder for me, I soon got to the top, and from thence let myself down on the other side by means of a rope which, as good fortune would have it, had been left there by some of
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the gardeners. I got no other damage in this attempt than a slight scratch on the skin from the rope in letting myself down, and I might have been quit even for less trouble, had I not been so much in an hurry; for I was scarce got to the ground, when I perceived at a few paces from me a gentleman climbing the walls by a filken ladder, which he would doubtless have had the complaisance to have lent me. He came down again as soon as he saw me, but presently discovering that I was not the person he was in search of, he remounted his ladder, and entered the convent in order to spend the night very differently from those which I had lately passed there.

Altho' I was now got clear of my prison, I was far from being freed from my apprehensions; the fear of falling into the hands of the patrolle in the dress I was in, made me resolve to throw it off immediately, and stripping myself accordingly to my shirt and drawers, I made a bundle of the rest, which I threw over into the garden. This proved a very necessary precaution, for I had scarcely made twenty steps from the place, when I found myself attacked by

by four street-robbers, who laid hold of me with an intention to rob me, but seeing me in that trim, and thinking that some of their fraternity had been beforehand with them, they let me go about my business.

Having got clear of them, I set out as fast as I could go, and was just got up to the door of the house of an intimate acquaintance, called D. Nunez, when I was again stopped by the archer of the guard, who asked me who I was, and what I was doing so late in the streets? I made them answer that I was a young man of family, whom a pressing affair had obliged much against my will and custom to be abroad at that time of night; and that I had been just stript. Ay, and you are rightly served too, said the officer of the watch, it will teach you how to be rambling about the streets at such an hour as this, and not only so, but you ought to be carried to prison till it can be known whether you tell the truth or not. If you want to be convinced of that, replied I, without hesitation, you have only to go with me to D. Nunez's house, which is not ten yards from hence, where——the name of this gentleman

gentleman presently made the grim magistrate of the night as gentle as a lamb, and making a thousand excuses for his rudeness, he left two of his people with me to conduct me in safety to my friend's house.

When we got there we found the whole family fast asleep, and had much to do before we could get the door opened. D. Nunez was not a little surprised at seeing me at that time of night, and so uneasy; and began to ask me several questions, which I promised to answer as soon as he had got me some cloaths, and sent for D. Poketos; both which requests he immediately complied with, and in a very little time I saw the venerable old man enter the room; who embracing me with great tenderness, inquired by what lucky adventure he had the pleasure of seeing me so unexpectedly. I gave him an account of what had happened to me from the time the virtuous Angelica had left me, with my confinement in the abbey of ****, and my happy escape from thence. After which I inquired of him about my family, and especially concerning my new cousin. He told me that he had sent her into
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the country to a lady of his acquaintance, where she was to stay till it should be seen how this adventure was likely to turn out. Heavens knows what may be the issue of it, said I, but thank God we are at length both of us at liberty. That is true, replied D. Nunez, but I am afraid you will not be long so, unless you take great care; the story of your disguise and escape is doubtless, by this time, known to the grand inquisitor, whose resentment is so much the more to be dreaded, as both his love and religion are concerned: therefore, if you will take my advice, we will go all together to a country-seat of mine, where we will wait to see how matters turn out. This proposal was greatly approved of by D. Poketos, and it was determined to set out as soon as it was light enough to find our way.

It seemed as if we had acted by inspiration, for one of the springs of the coach happening to be broke, we were obliged to wait some time to have it repaired, during which we learnt that my story was already known in the abbey, and foreseeing that it would not be long before it reached the inquisitor's ears, thro' some of the abbess' charitable

ritable friends. D. Nunez immediately sent for another coach, and we set out in all haste for Villanuova, an estate of his, a few miles distant from Setuval; there we staid near a month, without any one having the least suspicion of our story, but being informed that the inquisitor had spies every where abroad after me, I considered that it would be better to leave my native country for some time than to fall into his hands. D. Nunez, to whom I communicated my design, was of the same opinion; but the greatest difficulty was to pitch upon the place of my retreat. He was for having me go to Spain, where he offered to secure me the most powerful protection. In answer to this, I represented to him that it would be only flying from one inquisition to fall into another; and that our Portuguese settlements in the new world appeared to me the most secure retreat of any; but my friend who had formerly made a voyage thither, remarked in his turn, that I should run still greater risk there, the inquisition in that place being, if possible, ten times more severe than it was here.

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We were in this state of irresolution, when my father D. Pedro, who had been informed by D. Poketos of the dangerous situation I was in, came to see me; far from loading me with reproaches, as many fathers would have done on a like occasion, he commended my charity, and told me that he had fallen upon a method of delivering me from the inquisitor's pursuits, if I could prevail upon myself to comply with it. There is a ship, said he, bound to Louisiana, in N. America, and I think the opportunity too fair to be lost. I listened attentively to what this indulgent parent said: the beauty of the country, the character of the people, and above all, the great liberty of conscience which I had been told was permitted there, determined me to make the voyage; and two days afterwards I embarked on board the ship.

Thus ended the adventures I met with in my own country: adventures which, indeed, have nothing extraordinary in them to people well acquainted with the world, but which may prove of infinite service to those who have not yet entered on that dangerous career.

F I N I S.

